

**Campus Name:** Thelma Salinas STEM Early College High School  
**Address:** 801 North College Drive La Joya, TX 78560  
**Phone:** (956) 3232240  
**Principal's Name:** DaLee Garcia

**Mission:**

Our mission at Thelma Salinas STEM ECHS is to enable students to graduate high school while earning an associates degree in a STEM-related field (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics) through the implementation of a rigorous curriculum, a structured system of academic, social, and emotional support, and a strong partnership with South Texas College.

**About Our School:**

Our school is a Texas Education Agency approved early college high school focused on preparing students for academic success in dual enrollment coursework and providing students with the opportunity to earn up to 60 semester hours of transferable college credit or an associate's degree. Our curriculum blends high school coursework with college readiness preparation and dual enrollment as early as students meet South Texas College admission requirements. Our faculty implements the Common Instructional Framework (collaborative group work, writing to learn, classroom talk, questioning, scaffolding, literacy groups) and integrates reading, writing, speaking, and thinking within all core areas and electives. Our students are taught organization/time management skills, participate in project-based learning activities, and are introduced to educational options and careers in the STEM fields. Currently, our school serves grades 9-12 and houses 403 students.

**Special Features:**

- \*Students must meet ECHS entry criteria and apply for admission while enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \*140 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be selected by lottery for admission this spring.
- \*Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders attend summer bridge program for orientation and transitional activities.
- \*Students must declare a STEM field of study: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics or interdisciplinary.
- \*Students may participate in the club or organization of their choice: Student Government, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Robotics, STEM Biological Society, UIL, National Honor Society, Chess Club, STEM Gamers, STEM Anime Club, Health Occupations Student Organization (HOSA), STEM Literary Society, Technology Student Association (TSA), Science Research Club, and STEM Music Club.
- \*Students may participate in after school extra-curricular activities at their respective high schools.

**Traditional Features:**

Our school is designed with a traditional 8 period schedule with an early morning session available for student-led study groups or faculty-led re-teaching sessions. The 1st period class allows students to receive local credit for Path to Success (9<sup>th</sup>), Student Leadership (10<sup>th</sup>), ACT Prep (11<sup>th</sup>), and College Readiness (12<sup>th</sup>). In addition to class guidance lessons, our students receive individual guidance and advisement by both high school and college staff empowering each student with the information necessary to make critical decisions about future educational plans and career choices.

**Our Staff:**

Thelma Salinas STEM ECHS is staffed by a principal, 1 assistant principal, 1 counselor, 28 faculty members (academic core plus electives), 1 instructional assistant, 1 secretary, 1 registrar, 1 attendance clerk, a shared social worker, and a shared computer proctor.