



Vanguard Academy Beethoven

ECHS Planning Application

2018-2019

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Background

District Affiliation

VANGUARD ACADEMY

DC #: 108808

Region: 01

Mailing Address (Line 1): 1200 E KELLY

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: PHARR, TX 78577

School Affiliation

VANGUARD BEETHOVEN

CDC #: 108-808-105

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 2215 S VETERANS BLVD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: EDINBURG, TX 78539

Academy Information

ECHS Academy Name:

Vanguard Academy Beethoven

What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2019-2020 school year?

6-12

Grade Level	Number of Students
9	44

Contacts

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent
Full Name: Dr. Narciso Garcia
Email: N_Garcia@vanguardac.net
Phone Number: 956-781-1701

Applicant

Job Title: Principal
Full Name: Mrs. Norma Espino
Email: N_Espino@vanguardac.net
Phone Number: 956-318-0211

IHE Liaison

Affiliation: South Texas College
Job Title: Director of ECHS at STC
Full Name: Mrs. Sofia Pena
Email: Sofia21@southtexascollege.edu
Phone Number: 956-793-1324

Narratives

Opening Statement

Describe how the decision to apply for a planning year was made. Include the types of individuals that were involved in the decision process.

Vanguard Beethoven is located in the Rio Grande Valley. We are part of the Vanguard Academy Charter School District, which was founded with the belief that students should find their "purpose in life, and a reason for learning." We aim to accomplish this through an emphasis on fine arts, a strong foundation in character education, ethics, family values, a strong moral compass, and rigorous academic expectations. We serve a first generation college bound population that is 79.17% economically disadvantaged, 55.01% At-Risk, 34.66% English Language Learners and 97.77% Hispanic. We serve students in the Rio Grande Valley, which has been identified as the poorest urban area in the country. In reviewing the needs of our Vanguard Beethoven community, all stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, administrators, counselors, and central office personnel) have come to the agreement that our school is ready and able to establish and sustain an Early College High School. For the past several years parents and students have been requesting that our district offer a more rigorous curriculum for college readiness during our parent meetings and surveys. In our conversations with parents and students, they have requested that Vanguard Academy become an Early College High School in order to increase the number of accelerated courses we offer. As a result, the faculty and staff of our district explored the benefits and design structure of an Early College High School and found that our first generation college bound student population would truly benefit from taking dual credit courses at no cost to the families. Due to the high needs of our students, all stakeholders have decided to support the Early College High School application as we strive to teach our students the highest standards of academics and extend an opportunity to express their own unique gifts and talents. Our superintendent along with the board of trustees are committed to reducing the barriers of college accessibility so that our students meet the Texas Higher Education Strategic 60 x 30 Plan by having our students obtain an associate's degree before they graduate from high school. Vanguard Beethoven will enable students to receive a high school diploma, complete the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's core curriculum and obtain a certification or an Associate's Degree. In essence, this will prepare the student to enter the job market with skills that will enable him/her to earn a salary that is above the living wage. The current job market in the Rio Grande Valley calls for skills in the areas of healthcare, criminal justice, and education. Therefore, our Early College High School would focus on the jobs and skills that our regional labor market projects. Students at Vanguard Beethoven would be prepared through South Texas College to receive an Associate's Degree in the areas of biology preparing them for healthcare, criminal justice, and education fields. In addition, Vanguard Beethoven would also emphasize "STEM" classes in the areas of science, technology, education, and mathematics.

Model Implementation

Does the district have any designated ECHSs for the current school year?

No

Which ECHS model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations. For this purpose campus is defined as a CDC number not a physical location.

School-Within-School: Other Grade Levels - All students enrolled in grades 6-12 or grades 9-12 are enrolled in the ECHS but other grade levels exist on the campus (such as grades K-5).

Dual Credit

Identify the type of advanced courses (dual credit/AP/IB) currently implemented on the campus. If this is a brand new campus, identify the type of advanced courses currently implemented at any school in the district. If the district does not currently offer any of the advanced courses below, select "Not Applicable".

- DC
- AP

Describe the advanced courses (dual credit/AP/IB) currently implemented on the campus. If planning to start a brand new campus, describe the advanced courses currently offered in the district.

Vanguard Beethoven has been in existence for two years. Originally the campus served students from PK to 6th grade and then added 7th grade this school year. Next year, Vanguard Beethoven will serve students from PK-9th grade. Vanguard Academy as a district has offered students Advanced Placements courses in Spanish Language and Composition, Spanish Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, World History, U.S. History, and Calculus AB. We have also offered the following Dual Credit courses through South Texas College: English 1301, English 1302, MATH 1414, MATH 2412, GOVT 2305, GOVT 2306, ECON 2301, PSYC 2301, SPCH 1311, COSC 1301, Art 1301, MUSI 1306, and PHIL 2306. Vanguard Academy is committed to expanding our course offerings and raising the level of academic rigor in order to prepare our students for post-secondary education. Due to the enrichment opportunities in the Early College High School, our students will further find their purpose through academics and community involvement.

Describe the current campus or district partnership with the dual credit provider. If the district does not have a current partnership, please describe the proposed partner for the new campus and how the partnership is currently being developed.

Our relationship with our local Institution of Higher Education (IHE), South Texas College is phenomenal. South Texas College has partnered with Vanguard Academy for several years, and they provide exemplary service to our district. When establishing the district's TSI testing lab, South Texas College came in to assess our facilities and guided our staff during the application and implementation phase. South Texas College continues to be a presence on our campuses by providing support and making themselves available when our district has requested support for dual enrollment. In addition, South Texas College faculty have evaluated our science labs and made recommendations as we upgrade to better meet the needs of our students. Through our partnership and memorandum of understanding, South Texas College has assisted Vanguard Academy in preparing our students with over 36 college hours through the dual enrollment program. Several of our highly qualified staff members serve as dual credit professors and high school teachers. The professional development provided by South Texas College has better equipped our high school teachers as dual enrollment professors; thus, instructing our student body with a more rigorous curriculum. Additionally, Vanguard Academy currently has 14 students who are enrolled in the STC Dual Enrollment Academies Program. As a result, this year Vanguard Academy will graduate seven students with an associate's degree. South Texas College also works closely with our College and Career Readiness Advisor and the Career Technical Education program to offer students continuing education classes in leadership, frontline supervisor, employability skills, and customer service. Upon completion of the Continuing Education classes, students at Vanguard Academy are better equipped for the workforce as they learn the soft skills that are essential for them to be successful.

Where are the dual credit courses currently offered?

- High school campus taught by high school teacher
 - High school campus taught by college faculty
 - Community college
-

Does the campus currently have teachers with qualifications to teach dual credit courses?

No

Describe the process that will be used to recruit and hire teachers with qualifications to teach dual credit courses.

The school district is committed to hiring the most qualified staff with Master's Degrees to assist us with providing our students with an Early College experience. Vanguard Academy has started with an early recruitment of teachers with Master's Degrees and has committed to place these staff members on contract for the 2018-2019 school year. Our IHE partner, STC has also committed to assisting our school district with hiring the best qualified dual enrollment faculty. In addition, the school district has committed resources to ensure the right staff is hired to provide our students with dual enrollment opportunities. Vanguard school district, Vanguard Beethoven, and STC are working collaboratively to ensure we provide our community with a rigorous curriculum through STC's dual enrollment faculty and their full-time professors thus providing our students with a top-notch college education that will prepare them to be college and workforce ready. Vanguard Academy's Human Resources office will continue advertising for teachers with Master's Degrees and will interview these teachers at recruitment fairs or at Vanguard Academy. In addition, Vanguard Academy will advertise in the local newspaper and on our school website for Dual Credit Professors. These teachers receive a \$6,000 stipend for being a Dual Credit Professor in our district.

TSI

What percentage of 9th grade students currently take the TSI?

100

What percentage of 10th grade students currently take the TSI?

100

What percentage of 11th grade students currently take the TSI?

0

What percentage of 12th grade students currently take the TSI?

0

Identify where the TSI is currently administered (check all that apply).

- 2
- 4

Targets, Readiness, and Focus

Identify the grade levels targeted if designated for the school year after your planning year (check all that apply).

- 9
- 10

Describe the current role of counselors regarding college and career.

The Vanguard Academy counselors support students by monitoring middle school, high school and college courses to ensure students are being successful and are on track to graduate by meeting with students, coordinating with partner schools, providing information to the parents, and by creating the students' four year individualized plans. In addition, the counselors schedule and monitor the district's TSI exams and provide students with a plan of action if they are unable to meet the passing standard. The counselors communicate with the faculty and staff to establish academic interventions for those who did not meet the passing standard. The district's counselors schedule college and career presentations for students and parents. Students are provided a portfolio in order to maintain the information given at each meeting. They also work with students' schedules in order to ensure students are enrolled in a College and Career Readiness class that will guide students through the application and financial aid process. Through our partnership with South Texas College, our students attend a Fast-Track dual enrollment registration process that includes a tour of the facilities and resources offered through South Texas College. In addition, the counselors set up and coordinate all college entrance exams such as the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. They monitor special programs such as Duke TIP to prepare students as young as 6th Grade for eventual college entrance and success. Additionally, one of the most important roles that our counselors play is providing social and emotional support needed by our students as they progress through the high school and dual enrollment curriculum. Vanguard Beethoven has a high number of special needs students who benefit from this additional support and guidance. Vanguard Beethoven's counselor will work diligently with the incoming 8th & 9th grade students during the summer. The counselor will help our student's transition into high school through TSI preparation and review high school curriculum expectations. In the past, these types of camps were known as Freshman camps; however, Vanguard Academy has called them "Summer Bridge Camps." Essentially, these camps help our students bridge middle school and high school.

Identify the current endorsements that are offered:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Services
- Arts and Humanities
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Identify the planned focus of the ECHS.

Academic