



THELMA ROSA SALINAS STEM EARLY COLLEGE H S

ECHS Renewal Application

2019-2020

Contents

[Background](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Narratives](#)

[Download Assurances Signature Page](#)

Background

District Affiliation

LA JOYA ISD

CD #: 108912

Region: 01

Mailing Address (Line 1): 201 E EXPY 83

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: LA JOYA, TX 78560

School Affiliation

THELMA ROSA SALINAS STEM EARLY COLLEGE H S

CDC #: 108-912-010

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 801 N COLLEGE DR

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: LA JOYA, TX 78560

Academy Information

ECHS Academy Name:

THELMA ROSA SALINAS STEM EARLY COLLEGE H S

Are you currently in the 2018-2019 planning year or are a 2018-2019 planning grantee?

No

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

9-12

Grade Level	Number of Students
9	135
10	115
11	112
12	85

Contacts

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent

Full Name: Dr. Alda Benavides

Email: a.benavides@lajoyaisd.net

Phone Number: 956-323-2000

Applicant

Job Title: Principal

Full Name: Ms. DaLee Garcia

Email: d.garcia2@lajoyaisd.net

Phone Number: 956-323-2240

IHE Liaison

Affiliation: South Texas College

Job Title: Coordinator for Early College High Schools

Full Name: Mr. Aaron Guajardo

Email: aguaja18@southtexascollege.edu

Phone Number: 956-872-7217

Narratives

ECHS Model

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.

Stand Alone Academy - All students on the campus are enrolled in the ECHS academy

Evaluation

Would your campus would like to be considered for distinguished recognition? All ECHS seeking distinguished recognition will be measured against the highest OMBs.

No

Products

Please provide links to the following products' locations on the ECHS's website.

Provide a link to the academy's written admission policy and enrollment application.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's written recruitment plan including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events, and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's brochures and marketing in Spanish, English, and/or other relevant language(s) .

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's written communication plan for targeting identified audiences, parents, community members, school board, higher education personnel, etc.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the final, signed, and executed MOU.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's leadership meeting agendas and minutes.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's school board and board of regents' presentations.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's description of each member and role in committee.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's 60 college credit hours crosswalk.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's calendar of family outreach events.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's professional learning community agendas and notes.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's advisory/study skills curriculum material.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's calendar of TSI test administration dates.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's aggregate reports of TSI exam performance.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's tutoring and bridge program schedules.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's Bridge Program curricula.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's mentor/induction program plans.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's annual training or professional development plan with the academy and IHE faculty.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's leader/liaison meeting agendas and notes.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Provide a link to the academy's leadership team member bios.

<https://stemechs.lajoyaisd.com/>

Free-Response

If the ECHS has identified and implemented sustainability structures to address and minimize the challenges of staff turnover, please describe those structures here.

Currently, Thelma Salinas STEM ECHS serves approximately 400 students and is staffed with 28 teachers (12 DE adjunct instructors and 16 highly qualified high school teachers), one principal, one assistant principal, one counselor, one secretary, one registrar, one attendance clerk, one social worker (shared), and one TSI Proctor (shared).

La Joya ISD highly values teacher feedback and is committed to analyzing the organizational health of every campus annually. Each spring, teachers fill out a 75 item survey which determines the "pulse" or staff's opinions on ten dimensions: goal focus, morale, autonomy, resource utilization, cohesiveness, communication, power equalization, innovation, adaptation, and problem-solving. The results of these surveys are compared to national norms to determine areas of strength and concern. Thelma Salinas STEM ECHS has been at the 99% on all 10 dimensions for the past six years. It is crucial for our staff to feel that they have an integral role in the success of our campus and students; hence, they are highly involved in both instructions and operational decisions..

Our district's HR department understands the uniqueness of the ECHS model and provides staff allocations based on the campus needs and goals. The district also provides additional compensation for the faculty members that teach dual credit courses at a rate of \$250.00 per section taught. This incentive pay continues to motivate teachers to work towards a masters degree in core areas of need.

We have been fortunate to have only lost 5 staff members in 7 years. When filling a vacancy, potential candidates are interviewed by a committee which includes administrative staff, an instructor fro the department that has the vacancy, and a senior level student ambassador. New teachers participate in an induction program which includes the assignment of a mentor teacher, the development of a district-based professional development plan, and a campus based professional development plan. Campus-based professional development includes the Common Instructional Framework (CIF), BlackBoard/Google Classroom, and Project Based Learning (PBL). In addition, professional development activities which address the affective domain are also covered during faculty meetings and professional learning communities sessions (PLCs) Topics such as enhancing grit/perseverance in students, helping students deal with stress, Framework for Understanding Poverty (Dr. Ruby Payne), Boys in Crisis (Dr. Paul Slocumb), and Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing School (Parrett and Budge).

Professional development activities which allow staff opportunities for discussion, reflection, research, application, implementation, and feedback ensure staff has the expertise to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students we serve on a daily basis. When staff has a vested interest in the success of the students and believe they have the tools to contribute to that success, turnover is minimal.

Describe the processes that the dual credit provider and the ECHS campuses monitor student progress, and determine when interventions are needed. How is this ECHS going to share data and monitor student progress and ensure student success?

Thelma Salinas STEM ECHS uses the district's Individualized Student Academic Plan (ISAP) protocol to monitor student progress and ensure student success. Once each 9th grade cohort is selected, data including state exam scores, TELPAS ratings, and TSI baseline scores in reading, writing, and mathematics is collected, analyzed, and placed in a portfolio. In the fall of the Freshman year, an individualized interview is conducted with each student to discuss field of study and career pathway of his/her interest. At this point, the student selects the associate degree plan most compatible with their academic and career goals. The crosswalk for that degree plan is reviewed with each student.

Throughout the four years at the the ECHS, students ISAP plans are reviewed with them twice a year. Both high school transcripts and DegreeWorks information is reviewed to ensure students are on track to graduate HS and college. Students demonstrating a pattern of falling behind are monitored more often. Tier II students are monitored by six weeks, and Tier III students are monitored every three weeks.

As stipulated in the Data Sharing Agreement between La Joya ISD and South Texas College, our dual credit provider shares mid semester progress reports and grades at the end of the semester. With access to VECTOR (a dashboard portal), the college provides our campus with pertinent GPA data by student/campus average and with the numbers of withdrawals and drops as well as other data shared between the district and college. Our campus has achieved "Green" status on all South Texas College achievement metrics. This year, STC instructional staff has piloted the Starfish program which serves as an early warning system to allow HS staff to intervene and assist students struggling with college coursework.

Individual conferences are held to discuss results of the previous semester and to review the courses students are currently registered for. If the student needs additional support, he/she is assigned to our 1st period intervention class, provided with a peer tutor, and/or given an additional study skills class during the school day. Our 12 on staff adjunct instructors are also available before school and during office hours to provide additional academic assistance.

Endorsements

Identify the current endorsements that are offered:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Certificates

For a description of level (one or two) certificates, please see:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/10494.PDF?CFID=75314517&CFTOKEN=13839274>

Identify all associate degrees offered to students.

Degree	Description
Associate of Science	Biology
Associate of Science	Computer Science
Associate of Science	Engineering
Associate of Science	Mathematics
Associate of Science	Interdisciplinary Studies

Identify all level one certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description
none	none

Identify all level two certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description
none	none

TSIA + IHE

Is this ECHS a TSIA testing site?

Yes

What ID number do students use when taking the TSIA exam?

Unique State Assigned ID

Is the IHE liaison working with other ECHS campuses?

Yes