



PSJA EARLY COLLEGE H S
ECHS Renewal Application
2021-2022

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Background

District Affiliation

PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD

CD #: 108909

Region: 01

Mailing Address (Line 1): P O BOX 1150

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: PHARR, TX 78577

School Affiliation

PSJA EARLY COLLEGE H S

CDC #: 108-909-001

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 805 W RIDGE RD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: SAN JUAN, TX 78589

Academy Information

What is the academy name?

PSJA ECHS

Which model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations.

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

Distinguished Recognition

Grade Levels Served

What grade level(s) will your academy plan to serve in the 2021-2022 school year?

9
10
11
12

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 9th grade.

622

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 10th grade.

595

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 11th grade.

582

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 12th grade.

582

Contacts

Applicant

Applicant 1

Job Title

Early College Director

Name Prefix

Mr.

First Name

Rolando

Last Name

Pena

Email

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Phone

956-354-2300

Principal

Principal 1

Name Prefix

Dr.

First Name

Alejandro

Last Name

Elias

Email

alejando.elias@psjaisd.us

Phone

956-354-2300

Superintendent

Superintendent 1

Name Prefix

Dr.

First Name

Jorge

Last Name

Arredondo

Email

dr.arredondo@psjaisd.us

Phone

956-354-2000

Narratives

Current Designations at PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD:

- PSJA EARLY COLLEGE H S - ECHS - 1415
- PSJA MEMORIAL EARLY COLLEGE H S - ECHS - 1213
- PSJA NORTH EARLY COLLEGE H S - ECHS - 1011
- PSJA SONIA M SOTOMAYOR H S - ECHS - 1415
- PSJA SONIA M SOTOMAYOR H S - P-TECH - 1920
- ELVIS J BALLEW H S - ECHS - 1516
- ELVIS J BALLEW H S - P-TECH - 1819
- PSJA SOUTHWEST EARLY COLLEGE H S - ECHS - 1112
- PSJA THOMAS JEFFERSON T-STEM EARLY COLLEGE H S - ECHS - 0809

Previous Planning Year Applications at PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD:

Narratives

The majority of the following questions will be narrative response. Narrative responses are limited to a maximum of 250 words. We recommend writing your responses in a text-editing software such as Microsoft Word and then pasting your responses into the website when they are complete. Progress to the next section when you are ready.

Narratives: Degrees and Credentials: IHE Agreements, Degrees and Credentials, Recruitment and Enrollment

Degrees and Credentials

Select the Career Cluster(s) that your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Agriculture
Architecture & Construction
Arts AV Tech & Communication
Business Marketing Finance
Education and Training
Health Science
Hospitality & Tourism
Human Services
Information Technology
Law & Public Service
Manufacturing
Transportation Logistics Distribution
STEM

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Agribusiness
Animal Science
Applied Agricultural Engineering
Environmental and Natural Resources
Plant Science

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Architectural Design
Carpentry
Electrical
HVAC and Sheet Metal

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Digital Communications
Graphic Design and Multimedia Arts

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Accounting and Financial Services
Business Management
Entrepreneurship
Marketing and Sales

Select the Career Cluster(s) that your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Cybersecurity
Engineering

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Teaching and Training

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Healthcare Diagnostics
Nursing

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Culinary Arts

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Family and Community Services

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Cybersecurity
Information Technology Support and Services

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Emergency Services
Law Enforcement

Select the Career Cluster(s) that your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
Engineering
Manufacturing Technology
Welding

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer in 2021-2022.

Automotive

Which of the following credential(s) does the academy plan to offer students in 2021-2022 school year?

AD

PC

What associate degree(s) does the academy plan to offer?

Item

Business Administration

Biology

Communications

Computer Science

Criminal Justice

Education

Engineering

Graphic Arts

Interdisciplinary Studies/General Studies

Mathematics

Social Work

Human Resources

What level 1 postsecondary certificate(s) provided by an IHE does the academy plan to offer?

Item

Automotive Tech Maintenance and Light Repair

Automotive Technology

Cybersecurity

Combination Welding

Computer and Internet Specialist

Electrician Assistant

Culinary Arts

Emergency Medical Technology Basic

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology

Precision Manufacturing Technology

Structural Welding

Human Resources Assistant

Payroll Assistant

Computer Application Specialist

Recruitment and Enrollment

Describe any changes in established plans for recruitment and enrollment process that meet open enrollment requirements.

PSJA ISD has taken several measures to ensure that ECHS information and student/parent resources are readily available and accessible to the public. Utilizing several online platforms, PSJA ISD has created multiple pre-recorded information sessions as well live presentations with time allotted for questions and answers. College tours, college expos and career showcases have all been conducted virtually, as to reach the maximum audience possible. The counseling department at each ECHS conduct monthly Counselor Café Parent Workshops comprised of predetermined topics intended to provide the attendees vital information regarding their children's higher education goals. Virtual student meetings are another integral component of the district's online recruitment and enrollment effort. Topics discussed in these forums include ECHS opportunities available to all students, TSI tutoring and testing calendars, college associate and certificate pathway options, dual credit enrollment and social and emotional services. Advising is also available via online platforms such as Google Meet, Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams. Participating Gear Up campuses also have their Gear Up Facilitators available to walk students through the necessary dual credit enrollment and registration requirements. PSJA ISD Department of Communications, Marketing and Public Information has established an online presence on a wide range of social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, Remind Me, Tik-Tok, Instagram and Snap Chat. PSJA ISD remains committed to the recruitment and enrollment processes throughout this COVID pandemic. All the aforementioned technological resources are accessible from the PSJA district webpage, as well as an internally created virtual learning E-hub.

Degrees and Credentials: IHE Agreements

Does the IHE partner currently have an articulation agreement with a four-year IHE detailing how a student's associate degree and accrued credits could lead to a baccalaureate degree?

Yes

Provide the university name that your IHE partner has an articulation agreement with and the bachelor degree that students could earn using their associate degree and accrued credits. Each row represents a degree.

2-Year Degree	University	4-Year Degree
Associates of Science Biology	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Bachelor of Science Biology
Associates of Science Mathematics	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Bachelor of Science Mathematics
Associates of Arts Criminal Justice	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Bachelor of Arts Criminal Justice
Associates of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Bachelor of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies

Narratives: Strategic Partnerships

Strategic Partnerships

IHE Partner 1

Affiliation

South Texas College

Name Prefix

Dr.

First Name

Rebecca

Last Name

Deleon

Email

rdeleon_8106@southtexascollege.edu

Phone

956-872-2607

Job Title

Dean for Dual Credit Programs and School District Partnerships

The Early College High School shall have a current, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each school year that defines the partnership between the school district(s) and the institution(s) of higher education (IHE).

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirement: Curriculum alignment and courses of study, which enables a student to combine high school courses and college-level courses to earn either an associate degree, postsecondary certificate provided by an IHE, or industry certification.

PSJA Early College High School and South Texas College provides a rigorous course of study that enables participating students to receive a high school diploma and complete the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) core curriculum as defined by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC 4.28) or an associate degree, postsecondary certificate provided by an IHE, or industry certification or at least 60 credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree during grades 9-12. The college gives credit for courses taken for dual credit for which Dual Credit Course Agreements have been approved with primary emphasis on the core curriculum requirements for all Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. PSJA ECHS provides students with academic, social, and emotional support in their course of study. STC regularly updates the high school campus counselor and principal regarding curricular changes. PSJA ECHS is responsible for ensuring that state course requirements for high school graduation are fulfilled.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Policies for: 1) advising students on the transferability of all college credit offered and earned, 2) ensuring the IHE transcripts college credit earned through dual credit in the same semester that credit is earned, 3) advising students as to the transferability and applicability to baccalaureate degree plans for all college credit offered and earned (college credits earned during high school should allow students to progress from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree and beyond in their chosen field), 4) students accessing the IHE facilities, services and resources

South Texas College provides advising opportunities to PSJA ECHS students as to the transferability and applicability to baccalaureate degree plans of all college credit offered and earned. All grade reports for all students are produced and disseminated no later than 72 hours (3 business days) following the end of the academic term according to the published schedule. Grades are due in the Office of Admissions by the published date and time. Term and cumulative GPA's are reflected on grade reports. All transcript corrections due to major change or repeated course are updated prior to the next grade reporting period. The College's Registrar provides appropriate security and confidentiality measures for the reporting and posting of grade and the maintenance of transcripts. Courses are conducted at the facility provided by the school district and/or one of the college's campus within the college's service district upon agreement. Access to the college is made available following the STC Academic Calendar, including the summer. High school students, instructors, and appropriate staff receive a college campus identification card. In addition, they have access to instructional and non-instructional resources and services available on the college campus. PSJA ECHS students are college students. Therefore, the college's resources and services are available to support academic success. The district and college evaluate the facilities on an on-going basis and determine the necessity of adjusting facility availability in future semesters and years.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Transportation costs and fees including provisions for discontinuing operation while ensuring students previously enrolled will have opportunity to complete their course of study.

PSJA ISD provides transportation (school bus) to students enrolled at PSJA ECHS as required, deemed necessary, and appropriate under State law and School District rules and procedures. The school district also provides transportation for all PSJA ECHS field trips and project-based learning activities focused on college and career. In addition, ECHS students enrolled in dual enrollment classes at the college will be transported at no cost or fees to the student.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Data sharing agreement that includes provisions for teacher data such as qualifications and student level data such as credit hours taken and earned, GPA, formative data to assess if student is on track for college readiness

FERPA allows protected student data to be exchanged between the college and school district for students that are dually enrolled without the consent of either the parents or the student under § 99.34. If the student is under 18, the parents still retain the right under FERPA to inspect and review any education records maintained by the school district, including records that the college disclosed. The college and the school district are expected to meet FERPA requirements to maintain the privacy of student data. The college provides data reports to the school district via standard reports as per identified timelines. These reports have been developed in an effort to provide required data in a timely manner to partners with a signed MOU.

Narratives: Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics

Select the type of advanced courses (dual credit/AP/IB) your campus plans to offer students in 2021-2022.

DC

AP

What type of dual credit courses does your campus plan to offer?

WECM

AGCM

Describe any challenges in ensuring your academy has educators with qualification to teach dual credit. What steps did your academy take to address the need?

Due to growing numbers with our partnering IHE there is a high demand for additional faculty. As a

result, having enough educators with qualifications to teach dual credit is a challenge. In order to meet the needs of our dual credit student population, PSJA ISD is committed to offering master's degree level pathways. Teachers have opportunities to earn the appropriate educational and professional credentials to teach in their field or discipline as set forth by the IHEs accrediting agency. In addition, teachers who teach a dual credit course receive a stipend from the district to encourage the furthering of their education, thus positively impacting instruction in their classroom.

Is the academy a TSIA testing site?

Yes

Narratives: Curriculum and Support

Curriculum and Support

Provide examples of how the campus plans to provide students with academic services. List activities and brief descriptions of the activities. Add a new row for each provided service.

Activity	Description
Academic Advising	Academic Advisor defines individual educational goals, monitors progress towards degree completion, and reviews available services.
Tutoring Services	Individual and/or group sessions provide assistance and targeted support offered on EC campus and IHE Center for Learning Excellence.
Freshman Early College Summer Bridg	A program that provides students the following: TSIA review, TSIA testing and college knowledge.
On Ramp to College	A summer academy that reviews TSIA and offers testing opportunities for 10th-12th grade students
First Year Connection	Orientation for all new students intended to ease the transition to college and provide information on the resources and services available.
Student Success Modules	Modules designed to provide essential information for student success.
Starfish Tool	An early alert system that assists in communication between faculty and student.
Dual Pathways Coordinator Visits	Dual Pathways Coordinator Visits

Provide examples of how the campus plans to provide students with wrap-around services. List activities and brief descriptions of the activities. Add a new row for each wrap-around service.

Activity	Description
Dual Pathways Coordinator Visits	Daily designated time in which students are engaged in academic, social, emotional, and college/university services.
SEL Parent/Student Meetings	Monthly meetings covering topics in the areas of social, emotional, academic support, and college/university services.
Go Center	On campus site where students and parents have access to information on postsecondary education and receive support from a Financial Aid Officer.
PSJA College Transition Specialist	Assist students transition successfully to college by providing academic and social support as well as other necessary information to better ensure persistence and completion.
PSJA Academic Webpage/Portal	Provides in-depth information on dual credit, programs of study, support systems and Early College opportunities.
PSJA Institutes	Assembly of local professionals/alumni in specialized areas offering mentorship, workshops, job shadowing and internship opportunities to students interested in their related field.
PSJA Academies	Strategic pathways leading towards a college degree or certificate in various programs of study through a cohort approach, hands-on learning experiences, social, emotional and academic support services.
Fast-Track Events	A student onboarding initiative providing dual credit students with registration assistance, enrollment support services, as well as connecting them to available resources.

How does your academy use the access, achievement, and attainment data for program improvement?

Through a strong partnership PSJA ISD and South Texas College collaboratively created a data sharing agreement that allows both institutions to closely monitor student academic, social and emotional progress that ensures student success. PSJA ECHS utilizes combined data such as: assessment reports, sub-group performance, attendance, college entrance/admission data, and course outcomes to track student progress. PSJA ECHS uses this relevant information in designing students' Personal Graduation Plans ensuring that students are college and career ready. Early college students are guided in selecting a field of study in their area of interest. Using individual student data, degree plan guidance is provided regularly. In addition students can use Degree Works, an IHE self-advising tool. This software provides real-time advice, current progress towards the degree, stream lines the graduation process, and allows direct access to multiple related services and counsel. Based on data outcomes students are provided a variety of academic and social interventions to reinforce positive learning skills. Together with our IHE partner, we continuously monitor student progress to ensure all requirements are being met for both high school and college graduation.

Narratives: Leadership Team

Leadership Team

List the Leadership Team's three priorities for the next year and describe how the selected priority contributes to the academy's success. Each priority should be a benchmark from the ECHS/T-STEM/P-TECH Blueprint.

Benchmark	Description
BM 5 Academic Rigor and Readiness	Increase TSIA passing rates by implementing a plan for success that includes academic instruction, academic interventions and in class academies.
BM 4 Curriculum and Support	Increase number of students earning 15 College credits by 15 % and core complete and/or associate degree by 10% by developing individualized student plan for ongoing academic student support.
BM3 P-16 Leadership Initiatives	Increase number of steering committee meetings engaging all stake holders to monitor progress, review data, and ensure that ECHS is on track to meet outcome based measures.

Narratives: Benchmark 1 Products, Benchmark 2 Products, Benchmark 3 Products, Benchmark 4 Products, Benchmark 5 Products, Benchmark Products, Benchmark 6 Products

Benchmark Products

Benchmark 1 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Benchmark 2 Products

Provide a link to the academy's final, signed, and executed MOU with their IHE.

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Benchmark 3 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Benchmark 4 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Provide a link to the academy's Master Schedules

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Benchmark 5 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Provide a link to the academy's Bridge program curricula

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

Benchmark 6 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2436>
