



PSJA NORTH 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

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## School Affiliation

PSJA NORTH EARLY COLLEGE H S

CDC #: 108-909-003

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 500 E NOLANA LOOP

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: PHARR, TX 78577

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## Academy Information

**What is the academy name?**

PSJA North Early College High school

**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.**

536

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

508

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

511

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

522



# Contacts

## Applicant

### Applicant 1

#### Job Title

Early College Director

#### Name Prefix

Mrs.

#### First Name

Belinda

#### Last Name

Garcia

#### Email

belinda.garcia@psjaisd.us

#### Phone

956-354-2360

## Principal

### Principal 1

#### Name Prefix

Ms

#### First Name

Liza

#### Last Name

Diaz

#### Email

liza.diaz@psjaisd.us

#### Phone

956-354-2360

## 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

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

Cybersecurity  
Engineering

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

Teaching and Training

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

Healthcare Diagnostics  
Nursing

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

Culinary Arts

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

Family and Community Services

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

Cybersecurity  
Information Technology Support and Services

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

Emergency Services  
Law Enforcement

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

Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics  
Engineering  
Manufacturing Technology  
Welding

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**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

Welding Technology

Human Resources

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

Item

Automotive Technology

Automotive Tech Maintenance and Light Repair

Cybersecurity

Combination Welding

Computer and Internet Specialist

Electrician Assistant

Culinary Arts

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Emergency Medical Technology Basic

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Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology

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Precision Manufacturing Technology

---

Structural Welding

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Human Resources Assistant

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Payroll Assistant

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Computer Application Specialist

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## 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.

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## 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                              |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Associate of Science Biology                | University of Rio Grande Valley | Bachelor of Science Biology                |
| Associate of Science Mathematics            | University of Rio Grande Valley | Bachelor of Science Mathematics            |
| Associate of Arts Criminal Justice          | University of Rio Grande Valley | Bachelor of Arts Criminal Justice          |
| Associate of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies | University of 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

De leon

##### 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 North 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 North 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 North 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 North 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 North 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 North 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 North 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.        |
| Freshmen Early College Summer Bridge | 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.                                            |
| Dual Pathways Coordinator Visits     | IHE representatives provide individual student degree audits and student support by utilizing Degree Works, a self-advising tool.            |
| Student Success Modules              | Modules designed to provide essential information for student success.                                                                       |
| First Year Connection                | Orientation for all new students intended to ease the transition to college and provide information on the resources and services available. |
| Starfish Tool                        | An early alert system that assists in communication between faculty and student.                                                             |

**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                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advisory Period                    | Daily designated time in which students are engaged in academic, social, emotional, and college/university services.                                                                                       |
| 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 North ECHS utilizes combined data such as: assessment reports, sub-group performance, attendance, college entrance/admission data, and course outcomes to track student progress. PSJA North 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 TSI tutorial support by providing students with online tutoring, resource and workbooks. |
| BM 4 Curriculum and Support       | Increase parental participation through ECHS parental workshops.                                  |
| BM 4 Curriculum and Support       | Increase the number of students to achieve a level 1 certificate through our IHE.                 |

# Narratives: Benchmark 1 Products, Benchmark 2 Products, Benchmark 3 Products, Benchmark 4 Products, Benchmark 5 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/2438>

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**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/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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**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/2438>

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## Benchmark 2 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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## Benchmark 3 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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## Benchmark 4 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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**Provide a link to the academy's Master Schedules**

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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## Benchmark 5 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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**Provide a link to the academy's Bridge program curricula**

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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## Benchmark 6 Products

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>

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

<https://www.psjaisd.us/domain/2438>