



EL DORADO H S  
ECHS Renewal Application  
2023-2024

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# Background

## District Affiliation

SOCORRO ISD

CD #: 071909

Region: 19

Mailing Address (Line 1): 12440 ROJAS DR

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: EL PASO, TX 79928

# School Affiliation

EL DORADO H S

CDC #: 071-909-005

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 12401 EDGEMERE BLVD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: EL PASO, TX 79938

## Academy Information

**What is the academy name?**

Empire Early College High School

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

School-Within-School (SWS) - A subset of students on the campus are enrolled in grades 9-12 are enrolled in the academy.

## Distinguished Recognition

## Grade Levels Served

**What grade level(s) will your academy plan to serve?**

9  
10  
11  
12

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

135

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

135

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

135

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

135

# Contacts

## Applicant

### Applicant 1

#### Job Title

Assistant Principal

#### Name Prefix

Mrs.

#### First Name

Nicole

#### Last Name

Matsuda

#### Email

nmatsu@sisd.net

#### Phone

915-937-3208

## Principal

### Principal 1

#### Name Prefix

Mrs.

#### First Name

Venessa

#### Last Name

Betancourt

#### Email

vbetan01@sisd.net

#### Phone

915-204-4368

# Superintendent

## Superintendent 1

**Name Prefix**

Dr.

**First Name**

Nathan

**Last Name**

Carman

**Email**

ncarman@sisd.net

**Phone**

915-937-0000



# Narratives

## 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.

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# 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.**

Architecture & Construction  
Arts AV Tech & Communication  
Education and Training  
Health Science  
Law & Public Service

**Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.**

Architectural Design

**Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.**

Design and Multimedia Arts

**Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.**

Teaching and Training

**Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.**

Health Informatics

**Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.**

Government and Public Administration  
Law Enforcement  
Legal Studies

**Which of the following credential(s) does the academy plan to offer students?**

AD

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

Item

Biology

Chemistry

Engineering

Pre-Medicine

Criminal Justice

Business

Mathematics

Physics

## Recruitment and Enrollment

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

Empire Early College has been using virtual meetings to connect with students and parents to provide information about the program. We have been conducting class visits to our 8th graders in our feeder pattern via Microsoft TEAMS. We have had several open forum parent meetings where we have provided information about the program. With the help of our middle school counselors, we have informed all students and parents that applying for the program can be accessed online through electronic applications. Our virtual lottery will be taking place using the SISD Lottery application.

## 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

AS Biological Sciences  
2-Year DegreeUniversity of Texas at El Paso  
UniversityBS Biological Sciences  
4-Year Degree

AA Psychology

University of Texas at El Paso

BA Psychology

# Narratives: Strategic Partnerships

## Strategic Partnerships

### IHE Partner 1

#### Affiliation

El Paso Community College

#### Name Prefix

Ms.

#### First Name

Tonie

#### Last Name

Badillo

#### Email

mbadill4@epcc.edu

#### Phone

915-831-6755

#### Job Title

Dean of Dual Credit and Early College High Schools

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.

The articulation agreement (Interlocal Agreement) between Socorro Independent School District (SISD) and El Paso Community College (EPCC) addresses Benchmark 2, Curriculum Alignment, under Section

5 Academic Plan. An academic plan is developed for each student to enable them to earn a high school diploma and an associate Degree. In addition to college credit being earned through dual credit course work, Empire Early College is responsible for administering all end-of-course exams and transcribing of all college courses to the student's transcript according to the district defined crosswalk. Pathways to an associate degree are additionally outlined in the articulation agreement through defined courses of study and curriculum alignment. Empire Early College students are provided with courses of study that meet the requirements of the Associate of Arts or Science Degree as well as the Distinguished Level of Achievement diploma in the following endorsement categories: STEM, Business and Industry, Public Service, Arts and Humanities, and Multidisciplinary Studies. Additional courses of study must be approved by the campus principal and the appropriate EPCC dean on an individual basis. The curriculum for Empire Early College students is developed to ensure that each student has the ability and opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in four years. Course and curriculum alignment is reviewed annually by the Advisory Committee as outlined in the articulation agreement.

**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**

Empire Early College has a dedicated counselor and director as defined in the articulation agreement to ensure students are advised on the transferability of all college credit offered and earned. All Empire Early College students have access to EPCC Student Services including EPCC counseling services. In addition to the requirements in the agreement, seniors have access to a transition counselor who further advises students on the transferability and applicability of their course work to baccalaureate degree plans at their planned college of choice. Empire Early College students' dual credit courses are transcribed onto the high school transcript as outlined in Section 5 of the articulation agreement. When students take college courses at EPCC, the Empire Early College Counselor and administrator are responsible for transcribing student grades following policy EIC(LOCAL). Students who take college classes at the early college site with a credentialed SISD teacher have their grades transcribed automatically through the student information system. All grades adhere to the requirements outlined in the IHE syllabus as well the appropriate grade conversion for the high school grade as stated in policy EIC(LOCAL). All Empire Early College students have full access to EPCC Student services as outlined in Section 8 of the agreement. Student services provided by EPCC include the issuance of an EPCC ID, access to EPCC's online library databases, materials and resources, on campus tutoring centers, Academic Computer Services labs and libraries, and access to participation in student government and clubs.

**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.**

SISD ensures that transportation routes for students attending courses at all EPCC site facilities are available during the fall and spring terms. Bus routes also include trip transportation for students to attend official school activities, such as daily classes in an approved section, orientation, etc. Beyond the requirements outlined in Section 10E of the agreement, SISD provides early college students

transportation for summer classes scheduled at EPCC sites and for students who attend the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) throughout the year. In the event of nonrenewal or termination of the agreement, students are afforded the opportunity to complete their course of study. Section 18, Renewal or Termination, states that termination will not occur during the middle of a school year in order to not disrupt the academic progress of the students of Empire Early College. If the agreement is terminated, Empire ECHS will continue operation through the 11th grade cohort's scheduled graduation from high school. Students enrolled in the 9th and 10th grade will also be able to continue through graduation by agreement. In the event of a termination, Empire Early College will not be able to enroll any additional students in grades that have been phased out but will continue to meet all the required design elements and provide full support for those who are still enrolled in Empire Early College.

**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**

Per the articulation agreement, data is shared and collected for required reporting purposes and for internal purposes to include student level data. The school district and the IHE agree to share any data required for the successful completion of the Empire Early College High School students' graduation plans and with the hiring of qualified staff members for dual credit teaching assignments. When sharing teacher data for qualifications, El Paso Community College discipline faculty will serve on the Empire ECHS teacher hiring committees. The school district and EPCC will collect and review the following disaggregated data: number of credit hours taken and earned; GPAs; End of Course (EOC) results; SAT/ACT/PSAT; TSIA2 readiness by grade level; qualifications of early college staff; and the location(s) where courses are taught. Any program improvements are based on the collection, review, and sharing of the following data: EPCC data; SISD data; articulation of high school students in four-year colleges/universities and level of entry and enrollment/retention rates; and leaver codes and attrition rates by grade level. Additionally, Empire ECHS students will participate in instruction success and faculty satisfaction surveys. Survey data is shared by EPCC the semester following the evaluations and may be used in program improvements.

## Narratives: Advanced Academics

### Advanced Academics

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

DC  
AP  
IB

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

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?**

Recruiting and retaining educators who are credentialed through El Paso Community College is a top priority for our district. When a credentialed teacher leaves, it is a challenge to find teachers who have the correct SBEC certificate and EPCC credentialing. To address these challenges, the district has implemented a dual credit teacher scholarship program. Through a partnership with UTEP and Grand Canyon University, SISD has implemented a Dual Credit Scholarship where interested teachers apply for and, if accepted, take graduate level coursework that leads to credentialing in areas of high demand such as biology and economics. To address retention of credentialed staff, teachers who receive the Dual Credit Scholarship must commit to three years with the district upon credentialing and will receive a stipend for each dual credit section they teach. At the campus level, the Empire Early College director will support the dual credit scholarship by identifying future courses based on student enrollment to recruit teachers to apply for the scholarship. To support current staff, EPCC hosts faculty and online facilitator workshops at the beginning of each college term, as well as the required discipline meetings that include learning objective and syllabus updates. The Empire Early College director will also provide specific professional development for the faculty to enhance classroom instruction and will provide TSIA2 workshops for purposeful enrichment and tutoring. With the combined efforts of the campus, district, and IHE, the district will continue to recruit, educate, and place credentialed teachers where needed, including at Empire Early College.

**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
AVID	All freshman and sophomores are enrolled in an AVID I or II class. Juniors and Seniors take AVID if requested or needed based on TSIA2 and EPCC Academic Standing or are used as Peer Tutors in the AVID I and II class.
On Campus Tutoring	Students who have below a 70% average are required to attend tutoring; parent contact is made for those who miss the required tutoring session.
EPCC Tutoring	EPCC provides online tutoring for students who need additional assistance. Students have been trained on navigating the tutoring site and a link is provided on our campus website

Activity to provide easy access.  
Description

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
Parent Academy	Parent outreach program to assist in aiding their children and looking for signs of stress at home
Hand to Heart (Peer Support Group)	AVID run outreach program that is voluntary to all scholars in early college who are stressed or can't seem to cope
Progress Monitoring Meetings	Meetings with scholars that fail to meet progress for 3, 6, and 9 weeks with all coded at-risk students
IHE Advising	EPCC counselors conduct advising sessions on campus

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

Empire Early College uses the access outcomes-based measures to drive recruitment. Recruiting at Empire Early Colleges starts with general recruitment/presentations to all 8th grade students within our own feeder pattern. After student presentations, a general recruitment night is held at El Dorado High school for all parents, students, and community members. Finally, Empire ECHS students and staff do additional recruiting in their feeder school 8th grade AVID and WIN classes. This allows for targeted recruitment of At-Risk, Emergent Bilingual, and first-time college students. These recruitment efforts have allowed for Empire ECHS to apply for distinguished early college status. The achievement outcomes-based measures are used to shape Empire ECHS TSIA2 intervention and testing schedules. TSIA2 Diagnostic data from those students who do not pass are used to help tailor specific remediation throughout the year. Additionally, diagnostic data is used when planning bridge camp activities since all district 8th graders take the TSIA2 reading. Edgenuity Math is used in all Empire ECHS non-dual credit math courses to ensure that 45% of Algebra I students meet the advanced standard of EOC and are better prepared for the TSIA2, PSAT, and SAT. With the close monitoring and use of the achievement outcomes-based measures, Empire ECHS is able to design and advise students individually to ensure they are taking the appropriate classes (college-level English and Math in 11th grade) and completing the courses required by HB5 and their college degree plan to graduate with a post-secondary degree on or before their high school 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
Benchmark 1 & 4	Preventing early college students from dropping the program and providing enough support and guidance where they feel comfortable in completing the four years in the program
Benchmark 4	Encouraging parents to get involved in their child's learning and provide support for them while at home
Benchmark 5	Encouraging students to attend TSIA2 tutoring regularly for those that have not passed and encouraging students to use the Edgenuity program to increase TSIA2 scores

## Narratives: Benchmark Products

### Benchmark Products

On this page, you must provide a hyperlink to the location where your digital products corresponding to the product and activities that are required to be posted by the first day of serving students. Enter the hyperlink here. Hyperlinks must be entered with the fully qualified URL including "HTTP://" or "HTTPS://".

<https://www.sisd.net/Page/62378>