



# HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO

T-STEM Renewal Application

2019-2020

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# Background

## District Affiliation

HARMONY SCIENCE ACAD (EL PASO)

CD #: 071806

Region: 19

Mailing Address (Line 1): 9321 W SAM HOUSTON PKWY S

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: HOUSTON, TX 77099

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## School Affiliation

HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO

**CDC #:** 071-806-002

**Region:**

**Mailing Address (Line 1):** 5210 FAIRBANKS DR

**Mailing Address (Line 2):**

**City, State, Zip:** EL PASO, TX 79924

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## Academy Information

**T-STEM Academy Name:**

HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO

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

Yes

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

6-12

Grade Level	Number of Students	School / CDC # Where Students are Enrolled
6	110	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
7	100	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
8	100	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
9	65	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
10	60	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
11	60	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)
12	60	HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION - EL PASO (071806002)

# Contacts

## Business Partner

**Affiliation:** EP Heritage Group-El Paso

**Job Title:** CEO

**Full Name:** Mr. David Bingham

**Email:** david@epheritage.com

**Phone Number:** 915-549-6606

## Superintendent

**Job Title:** Superintendent

**Full Name:** Mr. Gultekin Kaya

**Email:** gkaya@harmonytx.org

**Phone Number:** 915-626-5086

## Applicant

**Job Title:** Asst. Principal

**Full Name:** Mr. Yunus Bicici

**Email:** ybicici@harmonytx.org

**Phone Number:** 915-757-2929

## IHE Liaison

**Affiliation:** El Paso Community College

**Job Title:** Dean of Dual Credit and Early College High Schools

**Full Name:** Ms. Tonie Badillo

**Email:** mbadill4@epcc.edu

**Phone Number:** 915-831-6755

## IHE Liaison

**Affiliation:** The University of Texas at Austin

**Job Title:** Asst. Director of Strategic Partnerships

**Full Name:** Ms. Jennifer Saenz

**Email:** jennifer.saenz@austin.utexas.edu

**Phone Number:** 512-475-7877

## Business Partner

**Affiliation:** The Basil Garden, LLC

**Job Title:** General Manager

**Full Name:** Ms. Olivia Cabildo

**Email:** thebasilgarden1@yahoo.com

**Phone Number:** 915-721-8812

# Narratives

## Model Implementation

**Which T-STEM 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 T-STEM but other grade levels exist on the campus (such as grades K-5).

## Endorsements

**Identify the current endorsements that are offered:**

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



## Certificates

Does this academy offer Associate Degrees to students?

No

## TSIA

Does this academy administer the TSIA exam?

Yes

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

College ID

## Key Elements for Success

**Provide a link to the job description, roles of design team, leadership team, and advisory board.**

<https://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

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

<https://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

**Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.**

<https://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

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

<https://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

**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://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

**Provide a link to the academy's internship and externship opportunities.**

<https://hsielpaso.harmonytx.org/t-stem/>

## Free-Response

### **Describe how the Academy will recruit, support, and retain highly qualified teachers.**

Harmony School of Innovation is a highly recognized public charter school that hires top-quality teachers, administrators, and other professionals. Harmony strives to provide personal growth and professional success to recent graduates, alumni, experienced professionals, and seasoned experts seeking new career opportunities. Harmony offers competitive salaries, great benefits, professional support, and opportunities for career advancement. There are multiple reasons that encourage our staff to work in Harmony including:

- Collaborative, caring, and safe work environment with support and mentoring
- Many opportunities for advancement, career growth, and development (HEEP and HALA programs) for teachers and administrators
- Schools of choice with strong parental involvement
- High performing schools -Comprehensive health package and benefits
- TRS participation HSI-EL Paso invests in developing teachers and leaders through high-quality programs, effective coaching, and ongoing professional development. In order to recruit top talents, HSI also organizes annual Job Fairs in Texas and surrounding states. Harmony also offers a Teacher Referral Bonus program where current employees can refer prospective teachers to work for Harmony and get rewarded.

Harmony Public Schools invest in developing teachers and leaders through high-quality programs, effective coaching, and ongoing professional development. An example to this is a unique talent growth program named Grow Your Own Teacher (GYOT) where Harmony Alumni are supported with financial scholarships to enable them to pursue careers in Education and work for Harmony campuses. GYOT is an innovative fellowship developed to prepare HPS's future educators and leaders. Our program provides a competitive financial opportunity – up to \$20,000 for four years – for current HPS students and/or HPS graduates to pursue a bachelor's degree that leads to teacher certification. In addition, GYOT participants will receive professional development from central office experts, one-on-one coaching from a highly qualified teacher mentor, and networking opportunities with student colleagues from across Texas. Participants will earn the teacher's certification before returning to serve as an HPS classroom teacher.

Harmony efforts to retain top-quality teachers includes multiple approaches. One example of this is the Performance-Based Compensation System (PBCS) unique to Harmony where teachers are rewarded financially for excellent teaching and leading. Under this program, teachers may earn annual bonuses for student success in STAAR, NWEA MAP test, AP Exams as well as College Readiness and PBL Project completions. In addition to these, Harmony has a competitive salary and benefits for its staff. It also includes additional stipends for hard-to-recruit teaching fields such as in the STEM field.

Harmony School of Innovation's mentoring teacher program provides enough support to the new teachers. There is always ongoing professional developments and training that are offered to the teachers by the district offices at the beginning and throughout the school year.

**Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.**

Current STEM Pathways available are the following:

**1. Engineering:**

In order to complete the Engineering Pathway, students take the following coursework:

PLTW Introduction to Engineering and Design

PLTW Principles of Engineering

Engineering Concepts and Problem Solving

PLTW Digital Electronics

**2. Medical (Health Sciences):**

In order to complete the Medical Pathway, students take the following coursework:

PLTW Principles of Biomedical Sciences

PLTW Human Body systems

PLTW Medical Interventions

PLTW Biomedical Innovation

**Describe how strategic alliances with industry partners and IHEs will support the Academy. The description should include details regarding the role of each IHE, business, and/or community partnership; along with parent/family partnerships and communication conventions with the Academy.**

Harmony School of Innovation always promotes to establish ties in the community and form partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses and community leaders. Harmony School of Innovation also promotes the success of every student by collaborating with faculty and community members in responding to diverse community interests and needs and mobilizing community resources. In this vision in mind, HSI tries to get MOUs with IHEs, T-STEM centers, and community/business partners as much as possible. We promote understanding, appreciation, and use of the community's diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources, build and sustain positive relationships with families and caregivers, and build and sustain productive relationships with community partners. Below are some of the ways alliances and partnerships support our Academy:

- Most of our high school students have internship opportunities, job shadowing, mentorships, externships available annually.
- We have a Dual credit MOU with El Paso Community College and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin enabling our students to take College level courses while in High School
- Annual Career Fairs, stem festivals, and similar activities are organized on our campus by our partners in order to promote student interest in STEM fields.
- Students also pursue research opportunities in collaboration with UTEP and EPCC to learn and advance their research skills.

**Describe the Academy's work-based and contextual learning in the curriculum.**

HPS does not offer work-based learning programs but contextual learning is embedded into our STEM curriculum with extensive use of project-based and inquiry-based learning approaches.

Harmony School of Innovation's instructional approach strives for equity by providing a rigorous, challenging STEM curriculum serving all students, a focus on formative assessment, and a culture of high expectations and support. Harmony's STEM curriculum is student-centered and inquiry-based and matches the focus of the NGSS and College Ready Standards on rigor, depth, and higher-order skills such as conceptual understanding and application. In addition, we emphasize mastery of 21st-century skills that all students will need to be successful in college and career.

Harmony's unique approach to implementing Project Based Learning (PBL) is a nationally recognized model. The Harmony approach is to maintain the focus on standards-based and student-centered teaching while enriching and extending the learning of students through PBL projects. The goal is to promote not only collaborative skills and student ownership of learning but also to promote student success in state and national standards.

Project Based Learning is an instructional approach that emphasizes collaboration and personalized learning. In project-based learning, student groups engage in meaningful inquiry that is of personal interest to them. These problems are real-life oriented, curriculum-based, and often interdisciplinary. Learners decide how to approach a problem and what activities or processes they will perform. They collect information from a variety of sources, and then analyze, synthesize, and derive understanding from it.

The real-world focus of PBL activities is central to the process because it motivates students and adds value to their work. Their learning is connected to something real and involves life skills such as collaboration and reflection. Technology furthers the efforts of students and teachers in various phases of the PBL process. At the end of the PBL, students demonstrate their newly acquired knowledge and are evaluated by how much they have learned and how well they communicate it. Students also conduct self-evaluation to assess their own growth and learning. Throughout this process, the teacher's role is to guide and advise students, rather than to direct and manage student work.

**Describe the STEM-focused extracurricular activities (field experiences, clubs, and competitions) offered to students.**

There are multiple STEM-related extracurricular activities offered on our campus. Below are some examples:

1. Robotics Program/ Robotics Competitions: The objective of the Robotics program is to foster interest and competence in science, mathematics, and computers while promoting problem-solving skills, enabling creative thinking and design, and providing a domain for the application of scientific concepts. Students learn and apply the scientific, mathematical, and technological fundamentals behind the construction of robots and the design of control algorithms. They also develop some daily life skills as they build robotic creations, such as visual reasoning, problem-solving, teamwork, cooperation, and self-discipline.
2. STEM Festivals: The goal of the STEM festivals is to stimulate the interest of our students, parents, and the public in STEM by organizing fascinating, exciting, educational, and entertaining activities in our schools. Each year, all Harmony high school campuses organize a STEM festival to showcase students' various STEM products. Local influential people, parents, and the public are invited to STEM festivals as we celebrate the success and hard work of our students. Students present a variety of STEM projects in these festivals some of which include; -Year-long PBL projects -Science Research and Engineering Projects -Exciting STEM demonstrations, hands-on activities, and experiments -Robotics shows
3. STEM Summer Camps: STEM summer camps are held as part of leadership camps during the summer. Lots of fun and hands-on activities are planned for students to engage them in the STEM.
4. SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Program: SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. This program is supervised by our STEM Teachers. Harmony School of Innovation has also a partnership with the US Navy in this competition.
5. Solar Car Challenge: The Solar Car Challenge is the top project-based STEM Initiative helping motivate students in Science, Engineering, and Alternative Energy. The Solar Car Challenge Education Program teaches high school students how to plan, design, engineer, build and race roadworthy solar cars. This is accomplished through six national teaching workshops, on-site visits, curriculum materials, and summer camps.