



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: Early College Information

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Cruz, High School Executive Director and Angelica Sanchez, Career and Technical Education Director

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: November 07, 2022

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Parent and Student Information for Early College Applications

CALLING ALL CURRENT 8TH GRADE STUDENTS!

The Online Early College Programs Application Portal is now available at <http://earlycollegeapply.uisd.net>



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: Be an incoming 9th grader for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

- **L.B. Johnson High School Early College ASSOCIATES OF ARTS (956) 473-5100**
Applicants must reside in the LBJHS attendance zone.
- **United South High School Early College ASSOCIATES OF ARTS (956) 473-5400**
Applicants must reside in the USHS attendance zone.
- **J.B. Alexander High School Early College ASSOCIATES OF ARTS (956) 473-5800**
Applicants must reside in the AHS attendance zone.
- **United High School Early College ASSOCIATES OF ARTS (956) 473-5600**
Applicants must reside in the UHS attendance zone.
- **L.B. Johnson Biotechnology & Life Sciences Innovative Academy ASSOCIATES OF SCIENCE (956) 473-5100**
Open to all incoming 9th graders.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Any student interested in applying to our early college programs must register and complete the application through the online portal.
- Parents are required to view and accept the terms of the parent orientation video located within the student portal to be eligible for the lottery selection.

LOTTERY SELECTION DATES:

February 15, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.
- L.B. Johnson High School Early College
- L.B. Johnson Biotechnology & Life Sciences Innovative Academy

2:00 p.m.

- United South Early College Program

February 16, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.
- J.B. Alexander High School Early College Academy

2:00 p.m.

- United High School Early College Academy

Due by January 25th, 2023

Academy graduates can earn up to 60 hours of transferable college credit, the equivalent of two years of college or an associate's degree.

Average Yearly College Tuition and Fees - 2019

- Public Two-Year College (in-state) \$4,080
- Public Four-Year University (in-state) \$8,446
- Public Four-Year University (out-of-state) \$27,143
- Private Four-Year University \$47,564

Who can enroll and how do students enroll?

- Must be an incoming 9th grade student
- Students must reside in the attendance zone for the high school in which the Early College Program is located.
- Visit earlycollegeapply.usd.net to create your profile and submit your application electronically.
- Submit the application by deadline
- 100 students will be accepted each year
- Students will be accepted using a performance-blind open access lottery system
- Accepted students must complete a summer bridge program

For more information

- Talk with your counselor about Early College High School
- Early College High School staff will visit the United ISD middle schools during the spring semester.



**J. B. Alexander High School
Early College Academy**
3600 E. Del Mar Blvd.
Laredo, Texas 78041
Ph. 956.473.5800
Fax 956.473.5999

Graduate from high school with up to 60 hours of transferable college credit or an associate's degree.

Scan this image with your smartphone to be directed to the district's website



or visit www.usd.net

WE ARE UNITED

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

It is the policy of United ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap in its programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

What is Early College High School?

J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy (AHSECA) is a small school designed for students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to 60 hours of credit toward a bachelor's degree.

AHSECA has the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare all students for high-skilled careers by engaging them in rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and compressing the number of years towards a college degree.

Why Early College High School?

Did you know that...

- For every 10 students that start high school:
- 8 will finish and obtain a high school diploma
 - 6 will enroll in a post secondary institution
 - Only 3 will complete a bachelor's degree within 10 years

A post secondary education is essential for financial and personal freedom in today's economy. A four-year college graduate earns two-thirds more than a high school graduate does. An associate's degree translates into significantly more earnings than with a high school diploma alone.

At J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy, you are on the path to success!

The United Independent School District has partnered with Laredo College to offer students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of transferable college credits or an associate's degree.

Students at J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy begin taking college courses as 9th graders and follow the program throughout the four years. Students will graduate from high school in four years and can complete up to 60 hours of transferable college credit.

What is the difference between J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy & dual enrollment or Advanced Placement?

What sets Early College High School apart from dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and other pre-college programs is the rich and coherent academic program and a relentless focus on underrepresented students. J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy, Advanced Placement, and dual enrollment programs give students an understanding of post secondary education, yielding multiple benefits to students. However, only J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy:

- Fully integrates students' high school and college experiences, both intellectually and socially;
- Enables students to earn up to two years of college credit towards a degree while in high school;
- Blends the curriculum as a coherent unit, with high school and college-level work into a single academic program that meets the requirements for both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or certificate;]
- Grants college credits through the postsecondary partner institution

and enables students to accumulate the credits toward a degree from that institution or to a university.

Why is it important for students to earn two years of college credit while in high school?

AHSECA prepares high school students for successful career and educational futures through integration of high school and college courses in preparation for the work force. Students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and successful members of our community.

AHSECA graduates will have a significant advancement on their paths towards their baccalaureate degree. It also provides students access to support structures (academic, emotional, and social) that will enable students to navigate the educational process in higher education. (LC MOU)

What can students do after they complete J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy?

When students complete AHSECA, they have a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate's degree. This serves as evidence that ECHS students are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in college and more likely to earn a degree. (Hurst & Uribe)

How much money can students save by going to J. B. Alexander High School Early College Academy?

J. B. Alexander High School Early College

UNITED
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**United High School
Early College Academy**
2811 United Ave.
Laredo, Texas 78045
Ph. 956.473.5600
Fax 956.473.1980

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Scan this image with your smartphone to be directed to the district's website



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WE ARE UNITED

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What is Early College High School?

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UHSECA has the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare all students for high-skilled careers by engaging them in rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and compressing the number of years towards a college degree.

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What can students do after they complete United High School Early College Academy?

When students complete UHSECA, they have a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit or an associate's degree. This serves as evidence that ECHS students are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in college and more likely to earn a degree. (Hurst & Uribe)

How much money can students save by going to United High School Early College Academy?

United High School Early College Academy

ECHS/BLSIA Programs Communication/Recruitment Plan 2022-2023

Date	Activity	Person Responsible
October 3, 2022	ECHS Cohort 1 check due	ECHS/BLSIA counselors
November 10, 2022	Meet with eighth-grade middle school counselors to review ECHS/BLSIA Program timeline, recruitment procedures, and application forms.	ECHS/BLSIA Academy Staff
November 10, 2022	Advertisement of high school recruitment procedures posted on all middle school websites, all high school websites, and on the UISD page.	ECHS/Academy Staff and Communications Dept.
December 16, 2022	The UISD communications department will be mailing program postcards via the USPS to all current UISD 8 th grade students.	ECHS/BLSIA Academy Staff and Communications Department
December 17, 2022	Online applications open. Please visit earlycollegeapply.uisd.net to apply. Students must create an online account and parent/student must acknowledge required parent orientation video within the portal in order to be included in the blind virtual lottery.	ECHS/BLSIA Academy Staff
January 11, 2023	Meet with eight-grade middle school counselors and ECHS staff to review application deadline and student assistance procedures.	CTE Dept.
January 11-13; 17-19, 2023	Eighth grade orientations at all middle schools take place to introduce the ECHS/BLSIA Program and its benefits. ECHS/BLSIA administration and students assist with orientations.	ECHS/BLSIA & Advanced Academics Dept.
January 11-19, 2023	All middle schools advertise ECHS/BLSIA programs recruitment on campus marquee.	Eighth-Grade Counselors
January 25, 2023	Deadline for ECHS/BLSIA- After midnight parents/guardians/students will not be able to submit application as final. Students/Parents/Guardians will need to email earlycollege@uisd.net for support.	ECHS/BLSIA Academy Staff
February 13, 2023	Meet with eight-grade middle school counselors and ECHS staff to review Early College Program acceptance procedures.	CTE Dept.
February 15, 2023	LBJ ECHS/BLSIA 9am USHS ECHS 2pm Virtual Blind Lottery Selection	LBJ/USHS ECHS & BLSIA Staff
February 16, 2023	AHS ECHS Academy 9am UHS ECHS Academy 2pm Virtual Blind Lottery Selection	AHS/UHS Academy Staff
February 20, 2023	ECHS/BLSIA will convene to verify all students selected.	ECHS/BLSIA Academy Staff

March 1, 2023	Email Notification will be sent to selected students and middle schools counselors. Students will receive instructions within the email to complete and finalize program acceptance. (letter of commitment, LC application, student/parent contract, acknowledgement of mandatory parent meeting)	ECHS/BLSIA Staff
March 24, 2023	Deadline to complete all documents for selected students. Parents/students must submit all documentation via the early college portal.	ECHS/BLSIA Staff
June 9, 2023	ECHS Cohort 2 check due	ECHS counselors
July 2022	Mandatory Summer Bridge for all incoming ECHS/BLSIA students.	ECHS/BLSIA Staff