



# ECHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

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Class of 2015

Counselors are assigned by last name.

A-Gr Lisa Gillis

Gs-Or Robin Crowell

Os-Z Sara Kahla



# Graduation Plans

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- ❑ Recommended Plan  
28 credits
  - ❑ Distinguished Achievement Plan  
28 credits and 4 Advanced Measures
  - Students (Classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014) must also pass ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science TAKS Exit Level Exams in order to graduate.
  - Freshmen entering in 2011 (Class of 2015) must pass End Of Course Exams in order to graduate.
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# Why Go To College:

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- **More Job Opportunities**

More and more jobs, especially the high-tech industry, require more than a high school diploma. A college degree gives you more career choices, and makes changing jobs or careers easier.

- **More Money**

People who go to college usually earn more than those who don't. If you graduate college, you can expect to earn almost twice as much as someone with only a high school diploma over a lifetime of work. If you earn a professional degree, such as a doctor or lawyer, you can make almost four times as much! (This is based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Lifetime Earnings Estimates in 2000.)

- **Greater Knowledge**

It's a fact: A college education will help you understand the world around you, think critically, express your thoughts clearly and make smarter decisions.

- **Increased Potential**

College gives you more opportunities to explore your interests, learn new and interesting things, and develop your goals in life.

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# Pre AP and AP Courses

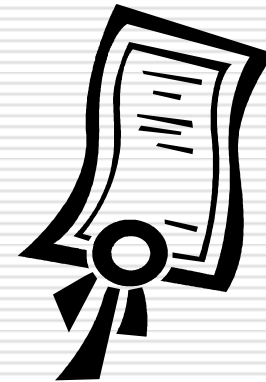
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- ❑ If you are planning to attend college after high school, we **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to take Pre AP and AP courses. AP exams can save you college tuition.
  - ❑ Also, plan to take dual-credit courses while still in high school.
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# Graduation Requirements for Recommended Plan

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<input type="checkbox"/>	English	4 credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Math	4 credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	4 credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soc. Studies	4 credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	PE	1 credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comm. App.	.5 credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine Art	1 credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Money Matters	.5 credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Lang.	2 credits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teen Leadership	1 credit
•	Electives	6 credits
	TOTAL	28 credits



# Benefits of being on the Recommended or Distinguished Plan:

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- Recommended High School Program  
The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) offers courses that give you the best opportunities to succeed in technical school, community college or a four-year university in Texas. The RHSP is the default curriculum for Texas public high school students.
  - The Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) goes beyond the RHSP. For more information, see the "[Distinguished Achievement Program](#)" page on this site.
  - You may be eligible for a [TEXAS Grant](#) to help pay college expenses if you complete either program (the DAP or the RHSP) and demonstrate financial need.
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# Course Sequence for Recommended Plan

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- ❑ English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4 or WCJC English 4
  - ❑ Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus  
OR
  - ❑ Algebra 1, Geometry, Math Models, Algebra 2
  - ❑ IPC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics  
OR
  - ❑ Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Approved Science Course
  - ❑ World History, World Geography, US History, US Govt./Economics
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# Graduation Requirements for Distinguished Achievement Plan

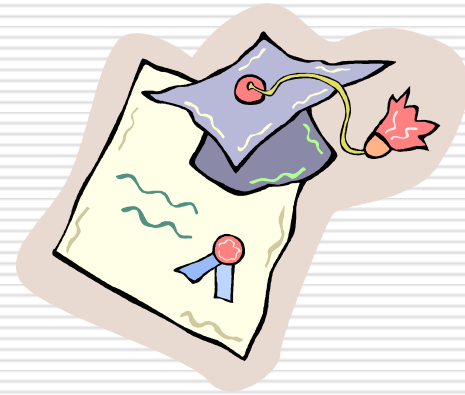
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- |                          |                 |           |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | English         | 4 credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Math            | 4 credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Science         | 4 credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Soc. Studies    | 4 credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PE              | 1 credit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Comm. App.      | .5 credit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fine Art        | 1 credit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Money Matters   | .5 credit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foreign Lang.   | 3 credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Teen Leadership | 1 credit  |
| •                        | Electives       | 5 credits |

TOTAL 28 credits

\*\*\* In addition to these requirements, four advanced measures are required.

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# Course Sequence for Distinguished Achievement Plan

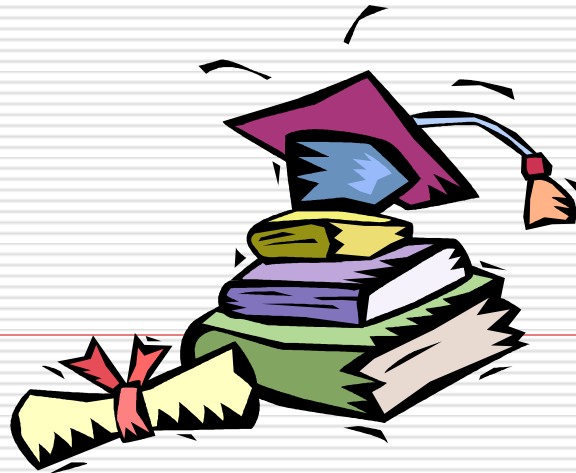
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- ❑ English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4 or WCJC English 4
  - ❑ Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Calculus  
OR  
Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus
  - ❑ Biology, Chemistry, Physics, AP Science  
OR  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Approved Science Course
  - ❑ World History, World Geography, US History, US Govt./Economics
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# Distinguished Achievement Advanced Measures

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- ❑ A score of 3 or above on the College Board AP Test
- ❑ A score on the PSAT that qualifies for outstanding recognition.
- ❑ A grade of B or higher on courses that count for college credit either through dual/concurrent credit or Tech Prep.



## Graduation Requirements beginning with the Class of 2015:

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- ❑ In order to graduate, a student MUST achieve a cumulative score, that is yet to be determined, in order to graduate.
- ❑ EOC Tests must be taken in:
  - English I-III
  - Alg 1, Geometry, Alg 2
  - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
  - World Geography, World History, U.S. History

This information is subject to change until finalized by legislature.

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# College Credit Options

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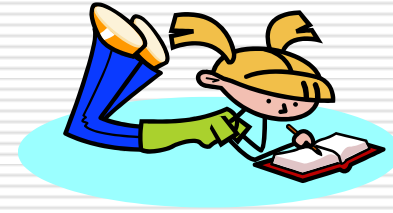
Tech Prep is a program where a student can earn college credit by taking designated courses. If the student meets the requirements set by the college in which the agreement is articulated, they can earn free college credit.

Dual Credit is a course that receives high school credit and college credit.

Concurrent Credit is a college course taken while in high school that only receives college credit.



# Pre AP/AP Courses



- ❑ For all four core subject areas, Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement courses are available. The courses are more rigorous and academically challenging. Pre AP and AP courses prepare students to take AP exams in order to earn college credit.
- ❑ If your student is college-bound they should enroll in Pre AP and AP courses.
- ❑ These courses are for students who agree to dedicate more time and effort to their studies. These courses are taught at a higher critical thinking skills level.
- ❑ Parents and students must sign a contract agreeing to this higher standard of learning.
- ❑ The student has 10 class days to change their schedule from Pre-AP/AP to an academic level class.

# Options for Other Required Credits

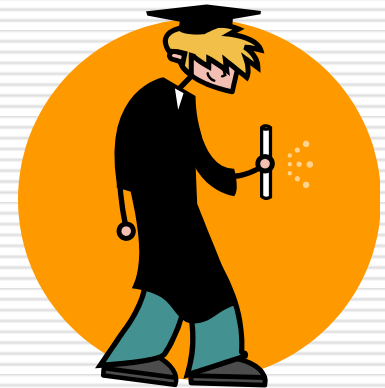
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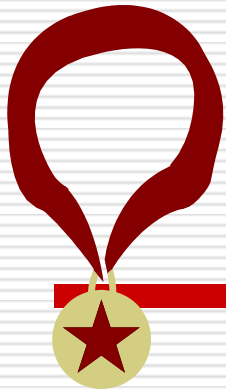
- ❑ 1.0 credit of Fine Art from Theater, Art, Choir, Band (Spring), Derby Dolls (Spring), Theater Production, Dance, Drill Team Prep, Modern Dance
  - ❑ 1.0 credits of Physical Education from Athletics, PE, Band (Fall), Derby Dolls (Fall), Flag Corp (Fall)
  - ❑ .5 credit of Communications Applications
  - ❑ 2 (Recommended) or 3 (Distinguished Achievement) credits of Foreign Language from Spanish
  - ❑ .5 credit of Money Matters
  - ❑ 1.0 Teen Leadership
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# Grade Classification Requirements

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- Freshman Promoted from 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Sophomore 7 credits
- Junior 14 credits
- Senior 21 credits
- Graduate 28 credits





## Texas Scholars and Texas Grant

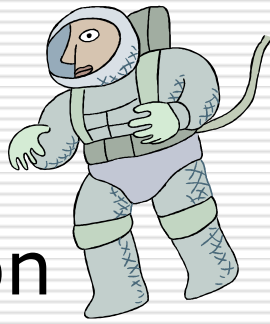
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Students who graduate on the Recommended or Distinguished Plan are considered Texas Scholars. This is a program sponsored by the El Campo Chamber of Commerce and other organizations.

They are also eligible for the Texas Grant when they attend college. This is a financial aid program where the student must meet certain requirements.

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# Career Preparation

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ECCHS offers many courses in the following career clusters:

- Agriculture Food & Natural Resources
- Business Management & Administration
- Architecture & Construction
- Education & Training
- Health Science
- Education & Training
- Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics
- Human Services
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communication
- Manufacturing

\*\*Many of the Career and Technology courses are Tech Prep courses.

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# College and Financial Aid Information

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- ❑ ECHS students are encouraged to pursue higher education and/or technical training.
- ❑ Counselors conference with students each year regarding their plans after graduation and work with students to choose the appropriate courses.
- ❑ During the junior year, students are given information about college readiness testing and college entrance exams.
- ❑ During the senior year, counselors conduct senior conferences in the fall to discuss the application process, scholarships, and financial aid.
- ❑ ECHS has added a link to their website this year which updates scholarship and financial aid information on a regular basis.
- ❑ During the senior year, ECHS counselors coordinate with WCJC Financial Aid Counselors in order to offer assistance in completing the application for financial aid.

# Top 10% Rule

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Students ranking in the top 10%(UT 8%) of their graduating class must be admitted to the Texas Public College or University of their choice if they:

- Apply no later than 2 years after graduation from a Texas High School
- Submit a completed application before the expiration of any filing deadline established by the college



# ECHS Counselors can help you with:

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- ❑ Providing guidance and encouragement for academic and career goals
- ❑ Counsel students in response to immediate personal and social concerns
- ❑ Individual assistance in monitoring and understanding the student's own development

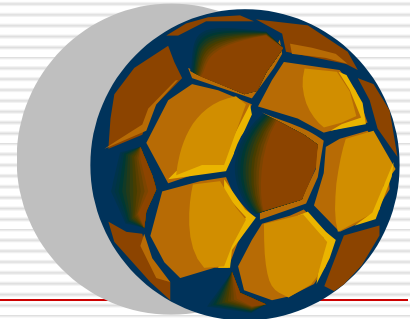


# Tips to Remember

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- ❑ Take challenging courses
- ❑ Get involved in school sponsored clubs and organizations
- ❑ Keep a record of the activities in which you participate
- ❑ Visit the guidance office often so that your counselor can help you stay encouraged and motivated toward your goals

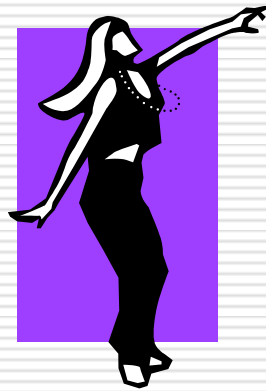




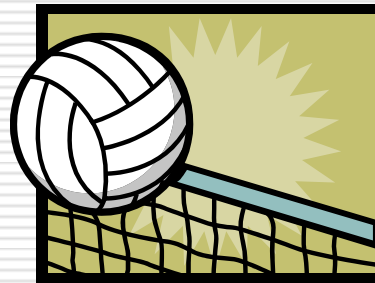
# Extracurricular Activities

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- Football
- Baseball
- Softball
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Power Lifting
- Track
- Derby Dolls
- Cheerleading



- Drama
- Speech
- Flag Corp
- Band
- Choir



# Clubs/Organizations

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Interact Club

FCA

Anchor Club

STARS

Student Council

National Honor Society (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Spanish

FFA

HOSA

Science

