

PINNACLE SELECTION

MOU Agreements, Rules and Regulations

MOU

According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Trinity Valley Community College and Athens Independent School District “the program will serve no more than 100 students in each grade level 9-12”.

The Early College High School Blueprint from the Texas Education Agency

1. The ECHS recruitment and enrollment processes shall identify, recruit, and enroll the subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by PEIMS), including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, or students who have failed a state administered assessment. Enrollment decisions shall not be based on state assessment scores, discipline history, teacher recommendation, parent or student essays, minimum grade point average (GPA), or other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment.
2. The ECHS shall identify, recruit, and enroll subpopulations (in addition to those who are at risk as defined by PEIMS) that are historically underrepresented in college courses (e.g., first generation college goers, students of low socioeconomic status, African American, Hispanic, Native American.)

TEA Rules

CHAPTER 102. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, SUBCHAPTER GG. COMMISSIONER’S RULES CONCERNING EARLY COLLEGE EDUCATION PROGRAM

§102.1091. EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.

(3) Early College High School (ECHS)--A school established under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.908, that enables a student in Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 who is at risk of dropping out, as defined by the TEC, §29.081, or who wishes to accelerate completion of high school to combine high school courses and college- level courses. An ECHS program must provide for a course of study that, on or before the fifth anniversary of a student's first day of high school, enables a participating student to receive both a high school diploma and either an associate degree or at least 60 credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree.

Based upon the MOU agreements, rules and regulations of the Texas Education Agency, the following selection criteria shall be applied for selecting cohorts into the Athens High School Early College High School (ECHS):

Applications

Applications will be delivered to Athens Middle School no later than the second week of February. The ECHS Administrator will present information to 8th grade students, parents and Athens Middle School teachers and staff before delivery of the applications to Athens Middle School.

Applications will be collected no more than four (4) weeks after delivery to Athens Middle School.

Selection

Selection of the ECHS Cohort shall be no later than the Friday before Spring Break. Acceptance and/or Rejection Letters shall be sent out over Spring Break.

It is the desire of Athens High School and the Texas Education Agency for the ECHS to match or exceed the comprehensive high school (AHS student body) demographics.

Once applications are gathered from Athens Middle School, student data will be collected pertaining to:

1. Financial Status as defined in PEIMS
2. First Generation College status
3. At-risk status as defined by the Texas Education Agency
4. ESL/LEP status
5. Special population information
6. Demographic information as defined in PEIMS
7. Attendance (Not to be used as selection criteria)

Tiers of Selection

Athens High School will begin by determining the size of the cohort based on staffing needs, budgets, and information from TVCC.

Tier 1

If more qualifying students (according to TEA's definition) apply for the Athens High School ECHS than can be accepted in the cohort, students will be selected into the cohort using a lottery selection process with the amount of students per demographic determined by the Athens High School demographic data.

Tier 2

If more students apply for the Athens High School ECHS than can be accepted into the cohort, only students that qualify according to the TEA Early College High School Blueprint will be selected.

If the number of qualifying students is less than the cohort, the cohort will be filled with qualifying applicants first and the remaining applicants will be entered into a lottery selection process to obtain a position in the cohort.

Tier 2 may result in non-qualifying (TEA Definition) students entering into the ECHS.

Tier 3

If less students apply for the Athens High School ECHS than can be accepted into the cohort, all applicants will be selected.

Tier 3 may result in non-qualifying (TEA Definition) students entering into the ECHS.