

## Attention all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and HS Tioga Parents

Tioga Secondary Parents,

Tioga ISD is pleased to announce the Texas Education Agency will once again designate Tioga High School as an Early College High School (ECHS). The designation process set up by the state of Texas ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the ECHS model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who might not otherwise attend college.

Tioga ISD will continue their partnership with Grayson College to sustain the Tioga Early College High School into the 2020-2021 school year. The partnership ensures an innovative high school four year plan allowing students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and the possibility of earning 60 college credit hours at the same time. The ultimate goal of the program is for our students to earn a College Associates Degree by the time they leave us as a graduating high school senior.

The Grayson College and Tioga ISD partnership will:

- provide dual credit at no cost to students;
- offer rigorous instruction and accelerated courses;
- provide academic and social support services to help students succeed;
- increase college readiness; and
- reduce barriers to college access.

Parents of all soon-to-be, out-going 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and any current HS students not already involved in the program are encouraged to attend the ECHS Parent Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, July 28th** beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Tioga High School library. This meeting will lay out all of the particulars of the plan, answer questions and allow parents to discuss the process involved in the Tioga ECHS Program.

Respectfully,



Josh Ballinger

## Parent and Student Information for Tioga ECHS

### What is an Early College High School (ECHS)?

- A partnership between a high school and a college
- A school that provides students with up to 60 college credit hours towards a Baccalaureate (Bachelor's) Degree or an Associate's Degree upon High School Graduation at no cost to the students or parents
- A program that, as defined by the 2005 Texas Legislature, targets students who are at risk of not graduating from high school and then attending college

### What Differentiates Early College High School from any other Dual Credit Program?

Dual Credit	Early College High School
Typically offers between 12 and 30 hours of college credit	Provides over 60 hours of college credit
Students usually begin taking dual credit in the 11th or 12th grade	Students usually begin taking dual credit in the 9th or 10th grade
Support services vary	Academic, social, and emotional support programs are required for all students (e.g., tutoring, mentoring, Saturday school, advising)

### Is the Early College High School Model Successful?

The Early College model is gaining national attention due to its success in raising high school graduation and college retention rates for students at risk of not graduating. The program provides student support systems, including tutoring, counseling, and mentoring while reducing barriers to college for students who might not otherwise achieve post-secondary success.

Saving time and money in the pursuit of a college education is important. A high school student taking full advantage of the Early College High School program could save \$24,000 in future college costs. At the same time, students gain the discipline and learning skills they need to succeed in college.

### What is the ECHS Designation?

Under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.908(b) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1091, the TEA developed a designation process for Early College High Schools. The designation process ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who might not otherwise attend college.

### What are the Laws and Rules?

Google the following topics to find out more involving the laws and rules for early college programs:

- General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 57, 2013
- Texas Education Code §29.908
- Texas Administrative Code §4.161

- **19 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 102 Educational Programs Subchapter GG: Commissioner's Rules Concerning Early College Education Program**