

CHALLENGE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL

5601 West Loop South, Houston Texas 77081 • P: (713) 664-9712 F: (713) 664-9780
Website: <http://www.houstonisd.org/challenge> • CEEB School code: 443-575

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE SCHOOL -----

As partners in the Early College High School Initiative, Houston Independent School District (HISD), Houston Community College System (HCCS) and The Houston A+ Challenge in partnership with the Carnegie Foundation funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation opened Challenge Early College (CECHS) in 2003 on the West Loop HCCS campus. Challenge Early College is an HISD Campus Charter School and is accredited by the Texas Education Agency.

CECHS provides high school-age students a "seamless" pathway from high school to college. Housed on the West Loop HCCS campus, with articulated sharing of space and staff, CECHS allows the high school student to gradually integrate into college course work through his or her traditional high school degree plan. This integration requires concurrent enrollment, with the student demonstrating mastery of the knowledge and skills necessary for success on the ACT COMPASS test.

Upon successful completion of the HISD standards for graduation, the students may elect to leave CECHS for higher education, or they may choose to remain for an additional year. During this additional year, the students will be enrolled primarily in college credit bearing courses, and with individualized support provided by CECHS. Students who graduate from CECHS will have not only a Texas Scholar diploma, but also may have accumulated up to 61 college credits, which may be transferable to the post-secondary institution of their choice.

ADMISSIONS -----

Admission is lottery based. Students are admitted without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, academic ability or physical handicap.

MIDDLE COLLEGE / EARLY COLLEGE CONCEPT-----

The first Middle College High School began in New York City in the early 1970's, centered around social justice in a small school setting on a community college campus. Most recently with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the majority of the Middle Colleges have converted to Early Colleges. Currently, there are over 80 Early Colleges across the nation.

CURRICULUM -----

The diversified curriculum meets the individual needs of our students by allowing them to design a unique and personalized four and five year graduation plan. Three level of achievement challenge each student's capabilities: Pre-Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement and Concurrent College course credit. A high level of coursework and expectations are held standard and time and effort increases with student's needs.

CONCURRENT / DUAL CREDIT COURSEWORK -----

HCCS is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which is the regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES -----

The following activities enrich the academic program: National Junior Honor Society, National Forensic League, Speech and Debate, newspaper, Yearbook, performing and visual arts, Service Learning, and other special interest clubs.