



Pineywoods Community Academy
PARAMUS Early College High School

2018-2019
ECHS Program Overview

Table of Contents

Overview of Early College High Schools in Texas.....	3
Academic Contract for Probation or Suspension.....	3
Academic Integrity.....	4
Angelina College.....	4
Attendance.....	4
College Grades.....	4
Campus.....	4
AC Programs supported through PARAMUS ECHS.....	4
Health Careers Division.....	4
Technology & Workforce Division.....	4
Liberal Arts Division.....	4
Science & Mathematics Division.....	4
Course Registration.....	5
Diplomas & Programs of Study.....	5
Discipline.....	5
Dual Credit.....	5
Dual Credit GPA.....	6
Four-Year Planning.....	6
Summer Wolf Camp.....	7
Student Handbook.....	7
TSI Testing.....	7
Schedule Changes.....	7
Transportation.....	8
Contact Information.....	8
Nondiscrimination.....	8
PARAMUS ECHS Program Overview.....	9

Overview of Early College High Schools in Texas

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 an associates degree at no cost to the students
- A program that, as defined by the 2005 Texas Legislature, targets students who are at risk of not graduating from high school

What Differentiates Early College High School from a 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, advising)

Academic Contract for Probation or Suspension

To be in good academic standing at the end of a semester, students in the 9th and 10th grades of the PARAMUS ECHS program must complete the required program of classes with an average of at least 2.0 (C, 70) for the semester. A student who is not in good standing at the high school at the end of a semester will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. A student who achieves an average of at least 2.0 for the probation semester will automatically be removed from academic probation at the end of the semester.

At the end of the fall mid-term period and spring mid-term period each year, any student whose average is below 2.0 will be required, with his or her parents, to attend a meeting with representatives of PARAMUS ECHS to discuss the student's difficulties and to determine what support is necessary. A similar meeting will be required at the end of the fall semester and spring semester, respectively, if the student's semester average is still below 2.0. Once all intervention opportunities for academic improvement have been exhausted, and the student has not been able to earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0, other educational alternatives will be considered.

PARAMUS Early College High School will allow each student the opportunity to retake a failed course only one time during the student's tenure with PARAMUS Early College High School.

Academic Integrity

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The Student/Parent Handbook defines cheating and plagiarism.

Angelina College

Attendance

College instructional standards allow the instructor to set the educational objectives and requirements for each course. The student who does not meet these requirements because of excessive absences may be dropped by the instructor on a notice to the College Records Office.

College Grades

In order to have access to your student's grades throughout the semester at AC you will need to have your student's AC username and password.

Campus

PARAMUS ECHS will provide students with regular use of Angelina College academic and support facilities, such as libraries, labs, advising center, career center, eating facilities, cultural facilities, and sports facilities.

AC Programs supported through PARAMUS ECHS

Health Careers Division

- Emergency Medical Services
- Nursing – LVN
- Phlebotomy
- Surgical Technology

Technology & Workforce Division

- Child & Family Development
- Diesel Technology
- Welding Technology

Liberal Arts Division

Transfer programs in:

- General Curriculum
- Teacher Education

Science & Mathematics Division

Transfer programs in:

- General Science Concentration
- Biology Concentration
- Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharmacy Concentration

Course Registration

All students enrolling in a Texas public institution of higher education must be in compliance with the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). Texas law requires all students entering college be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Before a student is eligible to take the TSI, they must first take a Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA).

Taking the TSI and a student's success on the TSI will be determining factors in the high school/college pathway a PCA student will be assigned.

Course registration should be based on the four-year planning process. The Course Selection forms submitted each school year are the basis of all registration for college and high school classes. Course Selection forms require signatures of parents and students. The high school counselor and administration will use this information to arrange those high school and college courses for the coming year. It may not be possible to change your registration after the four-year planning course selection process takes place. See applicable sections on schedule changes. No registration will be available once the Angelina College class has met.

Students will be expected to take a minimum of two dual credit courses each semester.

Diplomas & Programs of Study

All students are expected to fulfill the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA), as defined by TEA HB 5, diploma requirements. As the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End of Course (EOC) program is implemented, the EOC test score requirements will affect completion of the DLA, therefore relegating some students to the Foundation with Endorsement Plan.

All 9th and 10th grade students will pursue the Angelina College Associate of Arts Degree Plan with a major in General Studies. All PARAMUS ECHS sample four-year planning documents refer to this plan. Students may choose a different major if they earn grades of 85 and above in the 11th grade. Students must complete an Angelina College Change of Major Form to request permission to pursue a different major. The Change of Major form must be approved by the ECHS Principal and PCA Counselor prior to submitting to the Angelina College registrar.

Discipline

Student discipline at Angelina College will be handled by the Early College High School Principal.

Dual Credit

Courses offered for dual credit stem from agreements between high schools, universities and community colleges whereby a high school junior or senior enrolls in a college course and simultaneously earns college credit and high school credit for the course. An ECHS enables students to start taking dual credit courses as early as the 9th grade.

Partnerships between Texas secondary schools and Texas colleges and universities have enabled high school students to earn college credits before graduating from high school, making their transition to the collegiate campus smoother and their likelihood of graduating from college greater.

Courses are offered by accredited colleges and include both academic and career/technical courses. While most students take basic core courses such as English, history, math and social science, coursework may include areas such as automotive technology or criminal justice, depending on the various degree plans offered by each community college.

College courses offered for dual credit may be taught at the college campus or the high school campus by credentialed instructors; that is, instructors must be qualified according to criteria established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Courses offered for dual credit include the same content and rigor as courses taught to other college students, utilizing the same instructors, curriculum and policies. Additionally, community colleges can assist with agreements to universities.

The benefits to high school students who participate in dual credit courses are numerous. At an ECHS, students are able to earn up to 60 hours of college credit prior to graduating from high school.

Advantages for dual credit students include the following:

- Seamless transition from high school to college
- Greater likelihood of success in subsequent collegiate work
- Greater likelihood of earning a high school diploma and a college degree
- Opportunity to access college facilities and resources such as tutoring services, computer labs and counseling services
- Enhances skills required to be successful at the collegiate level such as time management skills, critical thinking skills, study skills and following directions and procedures

Dual Credit GPA

Weighted GPA for dual credit courses will be awarded.

Four-Year Planning

The PARAMUS ECHS four-year planning process is re-visited each semester. Students will work with the PARAMUS ECHS Principal and PCA Counselor to revise their four-year plans. Students are required to submit a Course Selection Form each year in the spring semester to document their course requests for the coming school year. Course Selection forms require signatures of parents and students. The PARAMUS ECHS Principal will use this information to arrange those high school and college courses for the coming year. It may not be possible to change the registration

after the four-year planning course selection process takes place. See applicable sections on schedule changes.

Summer Wolf Camp

The summer Wolf Camp is a vital element for the ECHS program. Wolf Camp consists of an array of college readiness activities meant to introduce the incoming 9th grade and new High School PCA students to the college atmosphere.

Below are some topics covered during the two-day workshops:

- Classroom Etiquette
- Degree Plan Overview
- Testing Strategies
- TSI Testing
- Setting and Achieving Goals
- Strategic Thinking
- College Knowledge
- Time and Stress Management
- Emotional Intelligence

Student Handbook

Students will be held accountable for all provisions in the PCA Student-Parent Handbook, PCA Student Code of Conduct, as well as provisions outlined in this Program Overview.

TSI Testing

The TSI TEST is a computer-adaptive test measuring skills in Reading, Sentence Skills, Essay writing, and Mathematics. Any student who is attempting to enroll in college-level coursework in the State of Texas, who is not exempt from the testing requirements, is required to take the TSI Test.

Successful completion of the TSI Test is not a requirement for acceptance into the ECHS program. Students are eligible to take technical dual credit courses prior to successful completion of the TSI test.

Successful completion of the TSI Test is required prior to beginning academic dual credit classes such as English, Math, or Science.

Schedule Changes

Schedule changes or drops/withdrawals are not allowed because a student requests a different teacher or the class is too difficult. When these difficulties are encountered, and a schedule change is requested, the ECHS staff will ask a series of questions:

1. Have you met with the professor to discuss your concerns or how you can succeed?
2. Have you attended every class?
3. Have you attempted every assignment?
4. Have you attended a Supplemental Instruction (SI) session, if provided?
5. Have you visited the AC Tutoring Center, Writing Center, or Math Lab?
6. Have you joined a study group?
7. Have you tried to utilize a high school teacher for tutorial assistance?

*Due to scheduling constraints at PARAMUS ECHS, schedule changes cannot always be approved

Transportation

Parking permit forms must be complete and on file before a student will be given permission to drive to Angelina College. The required forms can be obtained from the Secondary Office located at Pineywoods Community Academy.

Seniors are allowed to drive their personal vehicle to Angelina College. Juniors can be given permission to drive their personal vehicle during the spring semester of their junior year.

Driving privileges can/will be removed for disciplinary reasons.

Contact Information

For questions or concerns regarding the PARAMUS ECHS program, please contact Merilyn Session-Netherly, ECHS Principal at msession@pcacharter.net or Monica Gunter, Pineywoods Community Academy High School Principal at mgunter@pcacharter.net.

Nondiscrimination

PARAMUS ECHS complies with commitment to the policy that no otherwise qualified person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any district program or activity on the basis of ethnicity, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.

PARAMUS ECHS shall operate as an equal opportunity employer and will provide and safeguard the opportunity for all persons to seek, obtain, hold and advance in employment within the district without discrimination. The District shall actively promote the full realization of equal employment opportunity through a positive, aggressive, continuing affirmative action program. Further, the District affirms the rights of all Protected Classes to be free from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and/or harassment.

PARAMUS ECHS shall inform students, parents, employees and the general public each school year that the educational programs, activities and employment opportunities offered by the district are offered without regard to ethnicity, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. The announcement

shall also include the name/title, address and telephone number of the person designated to coordinate Title IX and Section 504 and ADA compliance activities.

PARAMUS ECHS Program Overview

For the class of 2021 and beyond, students must meet the following criteria to begin the college program:

1. Student must pass 1, 2, or 3 parts of TSI
2. Student must be successful on all parts of 8th grade STAAR and/or
3. Be successful on Algebra 1 EOC (when taken in 8th grade)

Students that have not passed all parts of the STAAR and at least one part (Reading or Writing) of the TSI will be provided remediation/tutorial opportunities prior to retaking the TSI.

Required Courses

All 9th grade students will be required to enroll in College Transitions as one of their core classes. In this course students will prepare for the rigor of college level coursework. Students will also complete extensive research on their chosen career, the education required for that career, colleges that offer the educational program for that career, and the costs associated with that post-secondary education.

STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY OUTLINE

CLASS OF 2021 AND BEYOND

TRACK A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must pass 1, 2 or 3 parts of TSI Student must be successful on all parts of 8th grade STAAR and/or Be successful on Algebra 1 EOC (when taken in 8th grade) 		
Year 1 (9 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1)English 1 2)Algebra 1 or Geometry 3) Biology 4) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 5) College Transition (N1290050) 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	9 th FALL SPAN 1411 HIST 2311	9 th SPRING SPAN 1412 HIST 2312
Year 2 (10 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1) English 2 2) Geometry or Algebra 2 3) Chemistry 4) US History 5) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	10 th FALL ARTS 1301/DRAM 1310/MUSI 1306 PSYC 2301/SOCI 1301	10 th SPRING SPCH 1315/SPCH 1318 ECON 2301
Year 3 (11 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1) Physics 2) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 3) Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus 4) COLLEGE CLASS 5) COLLEGE CLASS 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	11 th FALL ENGL 1301 GOVT 2305 HIST 1301 ** ELECTIVE	11 th SPRING ENGL 1302 GOVT 2306 HIST 1302 PHED
Year 4 (12 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 2) Elective 3) Elective 4) COLLEGE CLASS 5) COLLEGE CLASS 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	12 th FALL *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 2311 MATH 13XX	12 th SPRING *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 23XX PHED
TOTAL CREDITS: 26	TOTAL COLLEGE HOURS: 60	

TRACK B		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student does not pass any part of TSI Or Student successful on all parts of 8th grade STAAR Or Student successful on Math and Reading but not successful on Social Studies or Science Or Student not successful on Algebra 1 EOC (when taken in 8th grade) 		
Year 1 (9 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1)English 1 2)Algebra 1 or Geometry 3) IPC 4) World History 5) College Transition 6) Spanish 1 7) Elective: Athletics, PE, Choir, Theater	9 th FALL NO COLLEGE	9 th SPRING NO COLLEGE
Year 2 (10 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1) English 2 2) Geometry or Algebra 2 3) Biology 4) US History 5) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	Student must pass TSI and be successful on ALL EOCs to begin college classes	
	10 th FALL SPAN 1411 ARTS 1301/DRAM 1310/MUSI 1306	10 th SPRING SPAN 1412 SPCH 1315/SPCH 1318
Year 3 (11 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1)Chemistry 2)Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 3)Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus 4)COLLEGE CLASS 5)COLLEGE CLASS 6)COLLEGE CLASS 7)COLLEGE CLASS	11 th FALL ENGL 1301 GOVT 2305 HIST 1301 PSYC 2301	11 th SPRING ENGL 1302 GOVT 2306 HIST 1302 PHED
Year 4 (12 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1)Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 2)Elective 3)Elective 4)COLLEGE CLASS 5)COLLEGE CLASS 6)COLLEGE CLASS 7)COLLEGE CLASS	12 th FALL *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 2311 MATH 13XX ECON 2301	12 th SPRING *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 23XX PHED SOCI 1301
TOTAL CREDITS: 26	TOTAL COLLEGE HOURS: 60	

TRACK C		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student does not pass any part of TSI Or Student not successful on Math and Reading Or Student not successful on Algebra 1 EOC (when taken in 8th grade) 		
Year 1 (9 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1)English 1 2)Algebra 1 or Geometry 3) IPC 4) World History 5) Intervention: Reading or Math 6) Spanish 1 7) Elective: Athletics, PE, Choir, Theater	9 th FALL NO COLLEGE	9 th SPRING NO COLLEGE
Year 2 (10 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
1) English 2 2) Geometry or Algebra 2 3) Biology 4) US History 5) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 6) COLLEGE CLASS 7) COLLEGE CLASS	Student must pass TSI and be successful on ALL EOCs to begin college classes	
	10 th FALL SPAN 1411 ARTS 1301/DRAM 1310/MUSI 1306	10 th SPRING SPAN 1412 SPCH 1315/SPCH 1318
Year 3 (11 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
8) Chemistry 9) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 10) Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus 11) COLLEGE CLASS 12) COLLEGE CLASS 13) COLLEGE CLASS 14) COLLEGE CLASS	11 th FALL ENGL 1301 GOVT 2305 HIST 1301 PSYC 2301	11 th SPRING ENGL 1302 GOVT 2306 HIST 1302 PHED
Year 4 (12 th grade)	GENERAL CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES OF ARTS	
8) Elective: Athletics, Choir, Theater 9) Elective 10) Elective 11) COLLEGE CLASS 12) COLLEGE CLASS 13) COLLEGE CLASS 14) COLLEGE CLASS	12 th FALL *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 2311 MATH 13XX ECON 2301	12 th SPRING *SCIENCE/LAB ENGL 23XX PHED SOCI 1301
TOTAL CREDITS: 26	TOTAL COLLEGE HOURS: 60	