



Challenge Early College High School A School of Opportunity!

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School Profile: 2023-2024

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CHALLENGE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL MISSION

Challenge Early College High School was established in the Fall of 2003. As partners in the Early College High School Initiative, Houston Independent School (HISD) and Houston Community College System (HCCS) opened Challenge Early College (CECHS) and is accredited by the Texas Education Agency. The rigorous curriculum allows the high school students to integrate the Distinguished Diploma requirements with HCC college credits to ensure college success. Students who graduate from CECHS will have an advanced high school diploma, as well as the opportunity to accumulate an Associates degree or up to 60 college credits. The Challenge Early College High School mission is to graduate confident, ethically responsible, lifelong learners who are prepared to succeed in higher education and be productive citizens in our world.

STUDENT BODY

Our 485 current students come from every area of the Houston Independent School District. Challenge's overall demographics breakdown is as follows:

- African American 10%
- Asian 4%
- Caucasian 8%
- Latino and Hispanic 76%
- Other 2%

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OF GRADUATES

- 93% matriculated at 4-year colleges or universities
- 5% matriculated at 2-year colleges
- >1% matriculated at vocational training
- >1% matriculated in the military
- >1% matriculated in other/undecided

SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon, 2018, 2011
- U.S. News and World Report Best High Schools in the USA
- The Washington Post, America's Most Challenging High Schools
- Ranked Top 10 School in the Greater Houston Area by the Houston Chronicle and Children at Risk
- Newsweek's Top High School List
- TEA High Performing School
- TEA High Progress School

GRADING SYSTEM AND STUDENT RANKING

Seniors receive preliminary ranks in October and final ranks in February. A student's grade point average is computed on a 4.0 weighted scale. The theoretical maximum GPA is above 3.86 on a 4.0 weighted scale, reflecting the number of required unweighted regular courses as well as Pre-AP, AP, GT, and Dual credit courses, which carry an

additional grade point. The cumulative GPA includes all courses except high school courses taken in middle school.

Letter grades and grade points are assigned according to the following scale:

GRADE POINT ASSIGNMENT

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Pre-AP, AP, GT, Dual Credit	Regular Courses
A	90-100	5	4
B	80-89	4	3
C	75-79	3	2
D	70-74	2	1
F	Below 70	0	0

CURRICULUM

Challenge High School offers only Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The curriculum for every course is above and beyond state and district standards. Each Challenge student generally takes at least 6 AP courses before graduation including the following: AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature, AP Human Geography, AP World History, AP U.S. History, AP Statistics and one AP science course. Students taking an AP course are required to take the AP test in May; AP tests are paid for by the district.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 26 credits are required for graduation. The required credits include:

- 4 years of English that include AP English Language and AP English Literature
- 4 years of Social Studies that include 3 AP courses
- 4 years of Science that include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- 4 years of Mathematics that include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus
- 2 years or more of one Foreign Language
- 1 year of Fine Arts
- 1.5 years of Physical and Health Education
- 5.5 years or more of Electives

ADVANCED PLACEMENT DATA

Students at Challenge take the following AP courses and AP exams:

- Freshmen take AP Human Geography
- Sophomores take AP World History
- Juniors take AP US History
- Seniors take one AP science course

AP COURSES OFFERED

Biology	Physics
Calculus	Research
Chemistry	Seminar
Comparative Government	Spanish Literature
Computer Science	Statistics
Computer Science Principles	United States Government
European History	United States History
English Language & Composition	World History
English Literature & Composition	
Human Geography	
Macro-Economics	

SCHOLARSHIPS

Challenge students are required to take a Guidance course their Junior and Senior year. In this course, students prepare for the PSAT, SAT, write college essays, prepare their personal statements for college applications, and work on applications for colleges and scholarships.

POSSE

The Posse Foundation is an American nonprofit organization that identifies, recruits, and trains student leaders from high schools to form multicultural teams called "Posses" of 10 Posse Scholars.

Challenge students currently holds 21 alumni who are Posse Scholars. Posse Scholars are offered full-tuition scholarships, weekly faculty mentoring, and other support.

EMERGE-HISD

EMERGE-HISD empowers and prepares high performing students from underserved communities to attend and graduate from selective colleges and universities across the nation. Students in the EMERGE-HISD program benefit from extensive programming, individualized support and tailored resources from 10th to 12th grade.

TEDxCHALLENGEEARLYCOLLEGEHIGHSCHOOL

In the spirit of TED's mission, "ideas worth spreading," the TEDx program helps communities, organizations and individuals produce TED-style events at the local level. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently, on a community-by-community basis, under a free license from TED.

Challenge Early College is currently the only HISD high school to hold a TEDx license since 2015.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION

Agnes Scott College	St. Mary's University
Arizona State University	Texas A&M University
Austin College	Texas Tech University
Baylor University	Texas Women's University
Bryn Mawr College	Trinity College
Carleton College	Union College
Christian Brothers University	United States Navy
Coe College	University of Houston
Colby College	University of Houston-Victoria
Colorado School of Minds	University of Miami
Duke University	University of St. Thomas
Harvard University	University of Texas-Austin
Baptist University	University of Texas-San Antonio
Lamar University	University of Texas-Tyler
Lehigh University	Wake Forest University
Penn State University	Washington University in St. Louis
Pitzer College	Wellesley College
Prairie View A&M University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Sam Houston State University	Xavier University-Louisiana
Southwestern University	Yale University
Stephen F. Austin University	

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES

Challenge is an Early College High School designated by the State of Texas. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit and earn an Associate Degree. This includes the Texas Core College Curriculum, which is 42 hours that are the foundation of all colleges and universities in the state of Texas. This can save our families money on the first two years of college.

Associate in Arts (AA): The Associate in Arts is intended primarily for students planning to receive a baccalaureate degree in the following areas: communication, business, social sciences, humanities, and fine arts.

Associate in Science (AS): The Associate in Science is intended primarily for students planning to receive a baccalaureate degree in the following areas: computer science, engineering, health and natural sciences, or mathematics.

CLUBS & EXTRACURRICULARS

Extracurricular activities at Challenge are based on students' interest. Students are given the opportunity each year to develop new clubs. The clubs and extracurriculars offered currently are:

The Ambassadors Club	History Club
Art Club	National Honors Society
Animal Appreciation Society	TEDx Club
Anime Club	UIL Academics
Business Professionals of America	You Matter Club
Chess Club	Film Appreciation Club
Social Justice Club	Grow+On Club
Tech Student Association	Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
Speech and Debate Club	Islamic Studies Club
Engineering Club	Music Appreciation Club
Indoor Fitness Club	Red Cross Club
Dance Club	SocialJustice/Activism Club
Puzzle Club	Yoga Club
Photography Club	

