



Challenge Early College High School A School of Opportunity

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School Profile: 2018-2019
CEEB Code: 443575

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CHALLENGE HS AND 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 District (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 graduated 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

Challenge students seek academic excellence in a community that values rigor, relevance, and relationships with faculty and staff. Our 465 current students come from every area of the Houston Independent School District. Challenge's overall demographics breakdown is as follows:

- African American 11.8%
- Asian 6.2%
- Caucasian 8.2%
- Latino and Hispanic 72.5%
- Other 1.3%

COLLEGE PLACEMENT CLASS OF 2018

- 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 School in the USA
- The Washington Post, America's Most Challenging High Schools
- Top School in the Greater Houston Area by the Houston Chronicle and Children at Risk
- Newsweek's Beating the Odds Top High School List
- TEA High Performing School
- TEA High Progress School

GRADING SYSTEM AND STUDENT RANKING

Challenge High School only publishes ranks for those students who are in the top 10% of their class. 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 (2017-2018 academic year)

Students at Challenge take the following courses and tests:

- 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 Language
European History	Statistics
English Language & Composition	United States Government
English Literature & Composition	United States History
Human Geography	World History
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.

The Class of 2018 received over \$11 million in scholarships and financial aid offers.

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 13 Posse Scholars in the last five years. 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.

TEDxCHALLENGEEARLYCOLLEGEHIGH SCHOOL

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 license since 2015.

SAT SCORE SUMMARY (N=116 tests)

SAT Reasoning Test Scores	Middle 50%	Challenge Mean	State of Texas Mean
Evidence-based Reading and Writing	550-625	588	483
Math	505-590	557	476
Total Score	1060-1205	1145	959

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION

Agnes Scott College	St. Mary’s University
Austin College	Texas A&M University
Baylor University	Texas Tech University
Bryn Mawr College	Texas Women’s University
Carlton College	Trinity College
Christian Brothers University	Union College
Coe College	United States Navy
Colby College	University of Houston
Duke University	University of Houston-Downtown
Harvard University	University of Houston-Victoria
Houston Baptist University	University of Miami
Lamar University	University of St. Thomas
Lehigh University	University of Texas- Austin
Pima Medical Institute	University of Texas-San Antonio
Pen State University	University of Texas-Tyler
Pitzer College	Washington University in St. Louis
Prairie View A&M University	Wellesley College
Sam Houston State University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Southwestern University	Xavier University-Louisiana
Stephen F. Austin University	Yale University

ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES

All Challenge graduates complete the Core curriculum for colleges in the state of Texas as determined by the Texas Higher Education.

School Year	# of Students	% of Associates Degrees
17-18	116	86%
16-17	105	68%
15-16	110	75%

CLUBS & EXTRACURRICULARS

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

Ambassadors Club	Makeup & Fashion Club
Art Club	Name that Book Club
Business Professional of America	National Honor Society
CECHS Cheer & Spirit Club	Red Cross Club
Chess Club	RPG Club
Comedy Club	Soccer
Culture Club	Sketch Script & Acting
Debate Club	TED Club
EMERGE	Theatre
Engineering Club	UIL Academics
Fitness Outdoors & Indoors	UNICEF
GSA Club	Volleyball Club
Glee Club	Yearbook Club
Latin Dance Club	Yoga Club
Life 101 Club	

