

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ENROLLMENT

Q: Who is eligible to apply to the ECHS@DSU?

- Are there entrance exams or Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) requirements?
- Do I have to be a first generation student?
- Do I have to be a member of an underrepresented group/minority?

A: Any resident of Delaware is eligible to apply to attend the ECHS@DSU. There are no entrance exams or G.P.A. requirements. While the mission of the ECHS@DSU expressly commits to serve and ensure the success of underrepresented populations such as first generation college goers, minorities, immigrants, females in STEM fields, and low income students, the ECHS@DSU is a public charter high school and will not discriminate in enrollment or hiring practices.

Q: I am a college graduate. Does this mean my child does not qualify to attend the Early College High School?

A: As a public high school, ANY and ALL students are encouraged to apply to attend the ECHS@DSU.

It doesn't matter if one or both parents attended and/or completed college. Our mission is to encourage and support underrepresented students, but it is not our intent to exclude anyone.

We will not discriminate for any reason. This wonderful opportunity is open to any student who has a dream to attend college and is motivated to work hard to earn up to 60 college credits before even leaving high school.

Q: When can I apply to the ECHS@DSU?

A: The state Education Options ("School CHOICE") application period begins on November 1st and runs through the second Wednesday in January each year. If enrollment numbers are not met, the ECHS@DSU will continue to recruit students until all available seats are filled.

Q: How do I apply to the ECHS@DSU?

A: A parent can submit an application online by going to www.schoolchoicede.org. Scroll down until you find the logo for the Early College High School @DSU. Click the link and follow the instructions to apply. You may also submit a paper application to the school or to the Department of Education. Be sure to list the Early College High School @DSU as your selection on the paper application.



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The official Delaware Standard Application for Education Options (“School CHOICE”) can be found at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/schools/dst/DEStandardApplicationforEducationalOptionsv2.pdf>.

Even though the application form states that applications must be filed by January 8, 2014, since ECS@DSU has not yet filled its class, you may still submit an application. Applications will be accepted until all seats are filled and an adequate wait list is achieved.

More information regarding Delaware Education Options (“School Choice”) can be found at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/schools/choice.shtml>

Q: Is the ECHS@DSU only accepting freshmen for the 2014-2015 school year?

A: Yes, that is correct. The ECHS@DSU will only be accepting freshmen for the 2014-2015 school year. We are phasing in each grade as the incoming Class of 2018 moves up.

We will add a new freshman class every year after. For example:

School Year	Student Body	Number of Students
2014-2015	Freshmen Only	125 students: Class of 2018
2015-2016	Freshmen	100 students: Class of 2019
	Sophomores	125 students: Class of 2018
2016-2017	Freshmen	100 students: Class of 2020
	Sophomores	100 students: Class of 2019
	Juniors	125 students: Class of 2018
2017-2018	Freshmen	100 students: Class of 2021
	Sophomores	100 students: Class of 2020
	Juniors	100 students: Class of 2019
	Seniors	125 students: Class of 2018

We will add a new cohort of 100 freshmen each year thereafter.

Q: When is it too late for an 8th grader to apply for the Early College High School at Delaware State University?

A: It is never too late to apply for the ECHS@DSU! Go to www.schoolchoicede.org

APPLY NOW!! We have a limited number of seats for each class, so don't wait!

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Each year the Early College High School will start a waiting list based upon our identified preferences (i.e., sibling preference or employee preference) as soon as we reach our capacity of students. Seats will be assigned first come, first serve. Vacancies created for “good cause” will be filled from the waiting list. There is no way of knowing how many seats will become available before September 30th.

Class rosters will be set after the September 30th Unit Count each year. It may be possible to enroll mid-year in grade nine (freshman year) if space is available.

Q: Can students transfer in to the Early College High School?

*A: It would be possible to transfer to the ECHS@DSU only if the students’ sending schools were Early College High Schools and **IF** the ECHS@DSU has phased in the required grade level.*

Q: My daughter will only be going to the 7th grade next year. I heard the process of being accepted is first come, first serve basis. So where would she stand by 2016?

*A: The regulation states that we must accept applications until the 2nd Wednesday in January each year. If we have more applicants than we have seats, we must conduct a **lottery**. We will be accepting 125 students in year one, but only 100 students in year 2 and every year after. If fewer students apply than we have open seats, all students who applied will be accepted and we will continue to recruit students (first come, first served) until there are no more spaces available.*

Q: How does the lottery work?

A: All applications will be weighted based upon the preferences established in the ECHS Charter Application approved by the Department of Education and affirmed by the State Board of Education. After the applications are weighted, the ECHS will conduct a random drawing.

Q: What are the ECHS@DSU enrollment preferences?

A: Enrollment will be open to all Delaware students, with an admissions preference for those interested in the educational philosophy and focus of the early college model.

When there are more applicants for grade level enrollment than ‘seats available,’ admissions preferences shall be applied in the following order of priority (admitting all from the first level of priority before admitting any from the second level etc.):

1. Students with siblings concurrently enrolled at the School
2. Children of staff members employed by the School for at least 30 hours per week during the school year

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Q: What is the “Certificate of Intent to Enroll” and what does it mean?

A: *The **Certificate of Intent to Enroll** is a commitment between the parents/guardians and the ECHS@DSU. By signing this certificate, a parent is accepting a seat in the ECHS@DSU and is declining all other school choice applications. By law, a parent must remain in a school of choice for the first full year after signing the **Certificate of Intent to Enroll** except for reasons of good cause. If after the first year the student wishes to attend a different school, they are free to do so.*

*The **Certificate of Intent to Enroll** is a very important document. It allows the ECHS to enter students into our school roster. Public schools are funded based upon the number of students enrolled and their educational needs. The Department of Education will fund the ECHS based upon the number of students and the educational needs of the students who are officially enrolled.*

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Q: When does the school year begin?

A: *The ECHS@DSU school year will begin with the **required** Summer Bridge Session for freshmen and sophomore students. The Summer Bridge Session will align with the DSU Summer II Session. This year, the session will begin in late June 2016 and will run for five weeks Monday through Thursday. Summer Bridge classes will NOT meet on Fridays.*

Since students will be participating in college classes, we will always make every effort to align the calendar so that ECHS students do not miss DSU classes. We will always honor the July 4th holiday and close school if it falls within a Summer Bridge Session.

Q: Does my student have to attend DSU for the college credits to “count?”

A: *No. The college credits are portable, transcribed credits. Students may attend any college or university upon graduation. They will graduate with both a high school diploma and an official Delaware State University transcript verifying the college credits earned. Delaware State University is an accredited higher education institution and the credits earned are transferrable.*

Q: Will my student attend classes with DSU college students?

A: *Yes. Early College high school students will attend classes with DSU college students. Initially, students will be placed in college classes with their ECHS peers in a special section scheduled just for them. However, the intent of the model is that over time as the students gain skills and knowledge, they will be gradually be released into the existing college course sections in groups of up to 5-6 ECHS students per DSU college class. That said, if your student is highly able in a particular content area and would be better served in a more advance college class, their individual learning plan may allow for them to enter into the college*

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environment sooner than their ECHS peers. This may also mean that they are the only ECHS student in a particular college course. Individual student learning plans will be developed collaboratively and parents will be part of the process.

TRANSPORTATION

Q: Will bus transportation be provided?

A: The ECHS@DSU will provide student transportation. Transportation within the Capital School District is the normal routing that any traditional high school must provide to the students who reside within the district. Transportation will be provided for the required Summer Bridge Sessions.

For students who reside outside of the Capital School District, based upon the numbers of students and their geographic locations, there are a few options for parents to consider:

- 1) ECHS will provide a bus run north and south on Rt. 13 and potentially down Rt. 113/Rt.1 or Rt. 40 (based upon student enrollment & need) that will stop at identified hub.
- 2) A student may be transported to the closest or most convenient ECHS hub/bus stop and can ride the school bus from there.
- 3) A parent may provide private transportation/parent drop-off & pick up. ECHS can help facilitate parent meetings where potential co-ops or car/van pools could be coordinated.
- 4) A parent may elect to allow their child to use public transit/DART for all or part of the route to school or the nearest ECHS bus stop/hub.

Q: How will my student get from the high school to the main campus for college classes or other events?

A: Shuttle transportation will be provided to the main campus as necessary. Initially, student will be taking college courses at the ECHS as a cohort. Sections will be added for the high school and the college professors will provide instruction at the Commons. In later years, juniors and seniors may require shuttle transportation between the Commons and the main campus until the new ECHS facility is ready for operation.

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FACILITY

Q: Where will the ECHS@DSU be located?

A: *The school will be located on the campus of Delaware State University to take full advantage of the “power of place” that is a hallmark of the Early College Model.*

The schools will begin operation in a temporary location at the DSU Living and Learning Commons just north of the main campus. This is the former Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center located on North DuPont Highway in Dover. The School will operate from this location for the first 2-3 years or until the new facility is built on the main campus of Delaware State University.

FOOD SERVICES

Q: Will cafeteria services be provided?

A: *Yes, food services will be provided for both breakfast and lunch. The ECHS@DSU will participate in the federal Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch programs. Students may pack their own lunch. Meals will meet all state and federal nutrition requirements and will be comparable in cost to other high schools.*

Q: Will the students have a cafeteria?

A: *Yes, the school has a designated cafeteria space.*

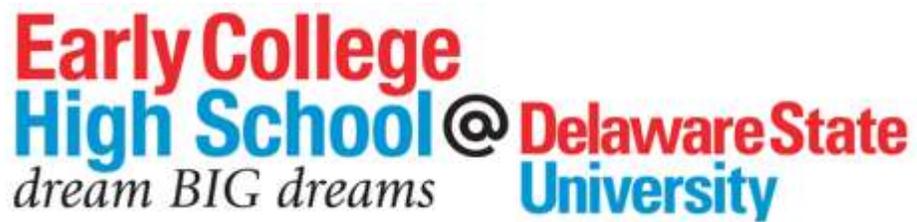
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Q: Will the ECHS@DSU have athletics?

A: *The ECHS@DSU will offer athletics in physical education classes, through intramural sports and afterschool clubs/activities. Athletics are not a focus in an Early College High School model. However, we will focus on the whole child and do believe in the impact of healthy minds and bodies. Once the school is up and running, students will be surveyed to determine what sports are of interest and have a sufficient number of students to field a team. Interscholastic sports will be explored at a later time.*

Q: Will the ECHS@DSU participate in state and local scholastic events such as Odyssey of the Mind, Math League, Science Fairs, First State Lego League, etc.?

A: *Yes, the ECHS@DSU will support and encourage student participation in scholastic events and competitions, especially those that are STEM related.*



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Q: Will students still have the opportunity to enjoy typical high school social events, activities and clubs such as dances, prom, school newspaper, year book and student government?

A: *Yes, the ECHS@DSU will support and encourage student participation in school sponsored social events, activities and clubs.*