Ensuring Quality and Support for Dual Credit and Early College High School

A Presentation by the Texas Education Agency

Overview

▶ Enabling and Supportive Policy 2003-2008

▶ Ensuring Quality: Dual Credit Studies conducted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

▶ Ensuring Quality: Early College High School (ECHS) Designation Process

▶ Providing Support for ECHS

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Enabling and Supportive Policy
2003-2008

Enabling and Supportive Policy - 2003

▸ 2003: HB 415 allows both high schools and colleges to receive state funding for teaching dual credit. This allows the high school and the college to provide services to dual credit students and serves as an incentive to build dual credit relationships.

▸ 2003: SB 976 establishes Early College Education Program, creates a model to target at-risk students who would not otherwise consider attending college and provides them with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and 60 college credit hours by the time they graduate from high school.

▸ 2003: TX Legislature appropriates significant funding for High School Completion and Success programs. Supports development and implementation of high school reform models, including ECHS. Funding has continued each biennium from 2004-2005 through 2010-2011.

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Enabling and Supportive Policy – 2006

▶ 2006: HB1 establishes High School Allotment, provides $275 per student for students in grades 9-12 to increase college readiness across districts.

▶ 2006: HB1 calls for development of College and Career Readiness Standards designed to specify what students must know and be able to do to succeed in entry-level courses at postsecondary institutions in Texas.

▶ 2006: HB 1 establishes College Credit Program, by 2008-2009, all districts must offer students an opportunity to earn a minimum of 12 hours of college credit.

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Enabling and Supportive Policy –2008

▶ 2006: SB1788 establishes the Texas Virtual Schools Network (TX VSN) to provide online courses for students. Originally intended to offer high school courses, it was expanded to include dual credit courses after requests from school districts.

▶ 2008: Administrative Rules – ECHS Designation provides districts across the state with an annual opportunity to join the ECHS network; 41 schools, including three new districts that funded their ECHS with local and private funds, are recognized through ECHS Designation.

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Ensuring Quality: Dual Credit Studies
Conducted by TEA and THECB

Dual Credit Definitions

Texas Education Agency	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
▸ An opportunity and agreement though which a student may earn <u>high school credit for successfully completing a college course</u> that covers all the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) of any specified high school course	▸ A college course for which a student receives high school credit and college credit at the same time ▸ Must meet usual collegiate standards in content, grading, and instructor credentials.

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Ensuring Quality – Dual Credit Studies

Dual Credit Cost Study (TEA)

- Determine cost of dual credit courses

- Recommend ways the state could pay for the 12 hours offered through the College Credit Program.

- For schools that have a small percentage of students taking dual credit, determine what courses they are taking instead.

- Assess equity in dual credit course taking within districts.

Ensuring Quality – Dual Credit Studies

End of Course Exam Study (TEA)

- Study feasibility of satisfying end of course requirements by successfully completing a dual credit course.

- TEA will provide recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2010.

Ensuring Quality – Dual Credit Studies

San Antonio Pathways Project (THECB)

- Pilot project that uses high school course-taking data to assess student performance in the subsequent college course.

- Example: A San Antonio student takes a dual credit English course in high school. Pathways will analyze college transcript data to assess the student's success in the next subsequent college English course.

- Lessons from this project will be scaled in Summer 2011 when statewide transcript-level data will be available for all students.

Ensuring Quality – Dual Credit Studies

Reference Course Profiles (THECB)

- Survey of higher education faculty teaching first year core-courses. These are high-enrollment "gatekeeper" courses.

- Goal: to examine the relationship between the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) and what is currently being taught in entry-level college courses throughout Texas.

- Faculty submitted 900 syllabi for a CCRS Gap Analysis. The results were used to develop Reference Course Profiles.

- Reference Courses will be used as a tool for higher education professional development and for critical engagement with faculty.

Ensuring Quality:
ECHS Designation Process

What is ECHS Designation?

▸ A process developed by TEA and the Coordinating Board designed to maintain the integrity of the ECHS model and ensure that:

   ▸ Schools enroll and serve the ECHS target population: students who many not otherwise consider attending college

   ▸ To ensure that the ECHS is more than a dual credit program

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Dual Credit vs. ECHS

Dual Credit	ECHS
Program offered in districts	Autonomous school model
Typically serves college-bound students	Targets at-risk students
College courses offered in 11th & 12th grade	Blended high school and college curriculum beginning in 8th grade
24 credit maximum	60 college credit goal for all students and a planned program of study
Limited or no focus on academic services	Academic and social support services
Students may (or may not) be charged depending on arrangements with the IHE partner	Must be at no cost to students (tuition, fees, textbooks, entrance exams)

How does ECHS Designation Work?

▸ Any district and partner IHE that wish to operate an ECHS must complete the Designation Application each spring.

▸ Application is based on ECHS Design Elements

▸ Through the application, school districts and IHE partners must demonstrate fidelity to the ECHS model and strength of partnership.

Providing Support for
Early College High Schools

Providing Support for ECHS

▶ Recognition as an approved ECHS: Designated
  ECHS are recognized through various forms of
  media including:

  ▶ A map of state-approved ECHS
  ▶ A listing on TEA's ECHS website www.txechs.com
  ▶ Recognition in press releases

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Providing Support for ECHS

- Exemption from Dual Credit Restrictions: Students in an ECHS begin college courses, based on performance as soon as they are able, possibly as early as 9th grade. THECB Rules state that:

  - Students may enroll in dual credit courses in 11th and 12th grade
  - Students may take two dual credit courses per semester.

- ECHS approved through the designation process are eligible the exception to these dual credit restrictions.

Providing Support for ECHS

- Eligibility for State Programs: Designated ECHS can benefit from program and activities designed to target ECHS. Examples include:

  - Optional Flexible School Day: a flexible method of attendance accounting that allows ECHS to serve students outside of the regular school day.

  - TEA seeks input from ECHS on policies and procedures that impact the schools.

Providing Support for ECHS

▸ Membership in the ECHS Network: Designated ECHS have opportunities for their principals, teachers, and students to network and share best practices in a number of ways:

  ▸ ECHS Conferences

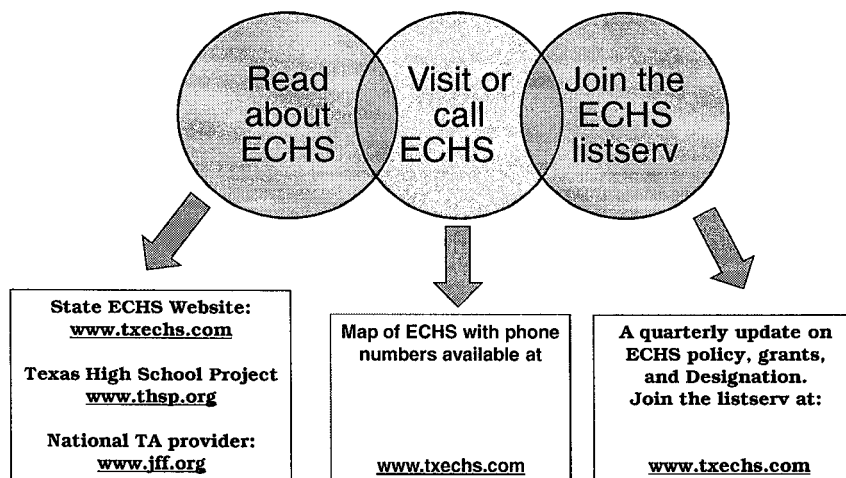 ▸ Listservs for principals and teachers

  ▸ Webinars and conference calls

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Providing Support for ECHS

▸ Professional Development and Technical Assistance: Designated ECHS receive the following types of high-quality, on-site professional development and training:

  ▸ Site Design Coaches who support design teams in developing the ECHS model.

  ▸ Training from Jobs for the Future and Communities Foundation of Texas.

  ▸ Leadership Facilitators and Instructional Coaches provide support for curriculum and instruction on the campus.

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Learn more about ECHS in TX

Read about ECHS

Visit or call ECHS

Join the ECHS listserv

State ECHS Website:
www.txechs.com

Texas High School Project
www.thsp.org

National TA provider:
www.jff.org

Map of ECHS with phone numbers available at

www.txechs.com

A quarterly update on ECHS policy, grants, and Designation.
Join the listserv at:

www.txechs.com

TX ECHS Resource Guide

▸ The Texas ECHS website includes a Resource Guide which contains a library of downloadable resources and tools to help design teams learn and plan.

▸ Visit www.txechs.com and click on Resource Guide.

▸ The Resource Guide is organized into six sections.

1. Background Information
2. ECHS Model
3. In the Classroom
4. Culture & Leadership
5. Finance & Operation
6. Awareness & Support

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Questions?