

Early College Design Elements

Program Structure	
School Autonomy	Congruent with district policy, school-based authority on issues of governance, staffing, budget, student assessment, curriculum, scheduling, professional development, access to school and student data, parent and community involvement
School Mission	Articulated mission and vision for the school, including student outcomes consistent with ECHS, career focus or theme, community service, internships
Student Recruitment, Selection	Emphasis on students who are under-represented in higher education, including low-income students, students of color, first-generation college-goers, English language learners
Number of Years	Identification of plan for length of time most students are expected to complete outcomes, including high school graduation, 60 college credits, Associate's degree
Curriculum, Scope, and Sequence Leading to High School Diploma and AA/Two Years of College Credits	An academic plan showing how students will progress toward goals, including high school, college, and dual-credit courses by semester and year for each year (and summer school, where appropriate), when they will satisfy district and state examination requirements, and when they will complete other school requirements, such as community service, internships
Location	For early college high schools on a college campus: An appropriate facility for carrying out instructional and other integral activities based upon the mission and vision For early college high schools not located on a college campus: Strategies and activities for fostering a college-going culture, including campus visits, weekend, Saturday, and summer programs on campus
Planning/Coordination	
School/Higher Education Collaboration	Formalized and ongoing procedures or structures enabling high school and higher education partners to plan and implement a coherent program across institutions, identify issues and challenges, and solve problems; budget reflects resources for supporting ongoing collaboration of high school and higher education, including planning, evaluation, and college liaison
Community Engagement	Outreach to and involvement of parents, community, and other stakeholders
Acceleration	
Student Preparation for College Work	Getting student skills up to grade level; research-based strategies and practices to develop student mastery of skills for success in college-level work. Integration of technology; strategies and practices aligned with school mission, academic goals, and an assessment of students' personal and academic needs. Low student-teacher ratio Examples of resources for student preparation include middle school enrichment programs, AVID, Seminar, American Diploma Project, Standards for Success, ACT/Explore, American Social History Project, and computer-assisted instruction. Student support structures, including advisories, , student cohorts, tutoring, learning communities, mentoring, guidance services offered by the early college high school and/or college partner
Instructional Practice	Qualified teachers and instructors identified, based on local and state certification and other regulations, who will teach college and high school courses; budget reflects resources for ongoing collaboration of high school and higher education faculty in course planning and professional development; ongoing professional development to personalize learning and accelerate students' academic advancement based on program goals and assessed student needs
Student Transfer and Transition Options	Counseling and support that help student completers to gain financial aid and admission to four-year colleges and universities, enter postsecondary technical certification programs, or employment, including college career guidance and placement services
Financing	
Tuition, Fees, College Course Costs	School plan for supporting strategies and activities required to accomplish mission and goals; plan includes how students will earn 60 college credits or Associate's degree