



# innovative programs and school **choice** **catalog**



## Pasco County School's Early College Program

### What is the Early College Program?

The Early College Program (ECP) is a structured high school acceleration program in which students are enrolled in postsecondary courses toward an associate degree while simultaneously earning their high school diploma. This program will begin in 9<sup>th</sup> grade with students enrolling in some Dual Enrollment (DE) coursework in combination with high school classes. By 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Early College students will be taking DE coursework fulltime through a variety of modalities such as on campus at FHS or ZHS, virtually via Pasco eSchool and at PHSC (on campus and/or online). Students will collaborate with their counselor to design pathways that will best meet their post-secondary aspirations with the goal of earning an AA degree by graduation. Early College students will also benefit from on campus supports (i.e. tutoring, study sessions, teacher office hours) through their zoned ECP in addition to many opportunities that create a college going atmosphere.

### How do I apply to be a part of the Early College Program?

Students must apply through the School Choice Application. There are three School Choice Windows that occur between January and July. For more information on these, visit [http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ed\\_choice/](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ed_choice/). Students remaining in or entering the program in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade, must also apply to PHSC to be an “official” Early College Student.

### What are the requirements to qualify for the Early College Program?

- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Student Interest
  - Student Interview
  - Final selections determined through school choice lottery based on number of seats
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Student Interest
  - Student Interview
  - Monitor for 3.0 GPA
  - Final selections for students new to the program determined through school choice lottery based on number of seats
  - Prohibitory status for students with 2.5-3.0 GPA



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## **What are the requirements to qualify for the Early College Program? (con't)**

- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade “Official” Early College Students
  - Students new to the program must apply through the School Choice Application and will be reviewed for the following criteria. Students must also complete a PHSC application.
  - Students remaining in the program for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, must complete the PHSC application to be an “official” Early College Student.
  - Criteria set by statute & PHSC include
    - Be enrolled as a student in a Florida public or nonpublic secondary school (grades 6-12), or in a home education program;
    - Have a 3.0 unweighted high school grade point average (GPA) to enroll in college credits, or a 2.0 unweighted high school GPA to enroll in career dual enrollment courses;
    - For college credits, achieve a minimum score on a common placement test
  - Final selections for students entering in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time are determined through the school choice lottery based on number of seats

## **Do I have to reapply every year to remain in the program?**

No, once you are in the program you do not need to complete a school choice application each year. Students in the program must complete an application in 11<sup>th</sup> grade with PHSC.

## **Do I have to attend FHS or ZHS to be in the Early College Program?**

Yes, students must attend one of these schools to be an Early College student.

## **What is my zoned Early College Program?**

The Early College Program your student is eligible to apply to attend is based on their zoned high school. See the Early College pathways map available in Pasco Pathways Catalog. [https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/school\\_choice\\_catalog](https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/school_choice_catalog)

## **Will I receive transportation if I am accepted?**

For students who choose to attend their zoned ECP, the transportation model may be hub transportation. Hub stops will be located at district school sites, which will be determined after reviewing student enrollment. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the designated hubs or for transporting students directly to the zoned ECP.