Maximizing College Acceptance and Credit Transfer within the NYS Early College High School Programs

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What is Early College High School?

- *A school or academy within a school administered by an active partnership between a school district(s) and an institution(s) of higher education (IHE).*

- An ECHS has the following key characteristics:

  o An integrated, organized, transferable college course of study leading to a college degree or credential provided at no cost to students;

  o A comprehensive system of supports that proactively develops students' academic skills and the behaviors necessary for high school and college completion; and

  o A commitment to serving students from low-income families and backgrounds underrepresented in higher education.

Smart Scholars ECHS Program Profile

➢ Initiated by the Board of Regents in 2009; the first programs opened in Fall 2010

➢ One of the programs within the NYSED Office of Postsecondary Access, Support and Success (OPASS)

➢ 24 Smart Scholars schools and programs across the state

➢ Served 6,056 students in 2015-16

➢ As of Summer 2016, approximately 8,000 Smart Scholars had earned over 84,000 transferable college credits.

Smart Scholars ECHS Program Profile

➢ In 2016, 85.8% of the 2012 Smart Scholars Cohort (1,069 out of 1,246 students) graduated or met high school graduation requirements

➢ The 2012 Cohort earned an average of 17.4 college credits.

➢ 90.6% of the 2012 cohort graduates whose graduation plans were reported went on to college.

Smart Scholars Student Demographics (2015-2016)

- Gender:
  - Male 50.4%
  - Female 49.6%
- Free/Reduced Plan Lunch 71%
- Students with Disabilities 12%
- Students of Color 89%
- Ethnicity:
  - American Indian or Alaska Native >1%
  - Asian 9%
  - Black or African American 55%
  - Hispanic 24%
  - White 11%
  - 1 or more races >1%

Smart Scholars ECHS Program Design

- Academies or programs within schools as well as stand-alone schools, mostly located near their partner college campus.

- Provides students the opportunity to earn 24 or more college credits by the time they graduate high school.
  - the equivalent of one year of college coursework

- Students may take college courses
  - at the high school, taught by "vetted" teachers,
  - at the college with cohorts of their peers and/or
  - at the college mixed with traditional college students.

Key Features

- Colleges or universities partner with school districts to develop and implement a seamless and aligned high school and college curriculum.

- During 9th and 10th grades, students typically take one or two college courses that do not require prerequisites such as a Freshman Success Seminar or an introductory computer science or art course.

- Students take most of their college courses during 11th and 12th grades.

- Some college courses may offer **dual credit**, i.e., qualify for high school as well as college credit.

Key Features of Early College High Schools and the Smart Scholars Program *continued*

- Academic and social supports from the school/college partnerships ensure college readiness and promote a college-going culture
  - ➢ Summer programs, advisories, after-school or weekend tutoring, and enrichment classes

  - ➢ Guest speakers and college tours

- Reduce need for remedial courses when the students enter college

- Ensure efficient progression towards degree completion and reduced expense for both students and colleges

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Dual Credit vs. Early College High School Programs

	Dual Credit	Early College High School
Definition	Dual credit is a process by which high school students, typically juniors or seniors, enrolls in a college course and receives academic credit from both the college and high school.	Early College High School blends high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive curriculum and program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college.
Target Audience	Dual credit is open to any high school student and often is targeted for the "high achievers".	Early Colleges are open to all students, but are tailored for first-generation college-goers, minorities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students underrepresented in postsecondary education.

Adapted from "Dual Credit vs. Early College High School: What's the Difference?"
Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning, University of Indianapolis, 2012.

Dual Credit vs. Early College High School Programs
continued

	Dual Credit	Early College High School
Availability	Dual credit opportunities typically are available only to high school juniors or seniors.	Early college begins with 9th grade students (and sometimes sooner) to prepare them for the rigors of college. • College level/dual credit courses may be offered beginning in 9th or 10th grade. • Students typically earn more college credit than a student enrolled in a dual credit program: up to 60 credits or an associate's degree
Cost	Students or families may be financially responsible for participating in dual credit courses.	Early College schools and programs generally absorb the majority of costs for college courses and textbooks.

Dual Credit Programs vs. Early College High School
continued

	Dual Credit	Early College High School
Degree Pathways	Dual credit classes often do not directly apply toward a particular course of study and do not comprise the majority of a student's coursework.	Early College offers up to two years of college/dual credit coursework toward specific postsecondary degrees (e.g., Liberal Arts, General Studies, Health Careers).
Postsecondary Partnerships	Dual credit may be offered through multiple higher education institutions.	Early Colleges establish partnerships with a limited number of postsecondary institutions to enable students to accumulate credits toward a degree from the partner institution(s) or transfer them to another college.

Dual Credit Programs vs. Early College High School
continued

	Dual Credit	Early College High School
School Culture	Dual credit offers students exposure to college through a few select courses.	Early College blends the high school and college curricula into one academic program using multiple courses leading to specific degree pathways. The model creates a college-going culture by integrating students' high school and college experiences intellectually and socially.
Support Systems	Dual Credit Courses often do not include additional supports outside of those offered with traditional courses.	Early College provides students with a structured system of enhanced supports to accompany the increased rigor of college classes.

College Readiness

- Students' performance on multiple measures, e.g.,
  - High school courses
  - Regents exams
  - Accuplacer/COMPASS*

  The placement tests also serve as diagnostics to help identify the academic skills for which students need extra support

- Multiple curricular and extracurricular strategies help students become "college ready"

- Target skills developed for "College Knowledge" through "booster classes", summer programs, and core class curricula

- Guidance/Mentoring about "how to be a college student"

  for example: How to talk with professors, how to study, note taking, using Blackboard, working in groups, etc.

Maximizing Transferability

- Selection of courses taken in the ECHS- typically highly transferrable general education college classes

- Educate college admissions and transfer offices about ECHS

- Share information about the ECHS and college courses in the college application packet

- Articulation agreements with colleges that enroll significant numbers of students from the ECHS

Sample of College Course Offerings for Smart Scholars
(Schenectady County Community College)

Grade Level	Sample College Courses	Credits	Location
Summer prior to 9th grade	FYS120: First Year Seminar	1	SCCC
9th grade	No college courses. Advisory program focuses on a variety of high school and college and career subjects.		
Summer prior to 10th grade	HIS125: Western Civilization to 1715	3	SCCC
10th grade	CIS121: Intro to Computers MGT 127: Human Resource Mgmt	6	SHS
Summer prior to 11th grade	ASL121: Intro to Speech	3	SCCC
11th Grade	BIO141: Biology I CIS221: Advanced Computer App	6 - 12	SHS
Summer prior to 12th grade	SOC121: Sociology	3	SCCC
12th Grade	ENG123/124: College Composition/Intro to Lit ECO 221/223: Principles of Macro/Micro Economics	6 -15	SHS
TOTAL College Credits		18-43	

Supporting Acceptances and Feasibility

- Financial Aid events to support families

- Support in understanding financial packages

- Aligning students to special programs at colleges:
  - HEOP programs
  - Opportunity programs at private colleges
  - Scholarship Programs

- Becoming educated about college programs and requirements

- Advising students about possible paths to meet their goals:
  - Community College
  - HEOP programs
  - Pre-Med programs

We Need Your Help……

What do you want to see?

- The transcripts- high school & college

- Courses- types, content, etc.

- SATs, ACTs

- Extra-curriculars, other experiences

- GPA vs. EOP programs

- Other?

The Smart Scholars ECHS Partnerships
*Member of NACEP   ** NACEP Accredited

County/Borough	School/Program Name	School District and College Partners
Albany	Albany Smart Scholars Program	CSD Albany **Hudson Valley CC**** **SUNY University at Albany**
Saratoga	Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries ECHS *(converting to a NYS P-TECH)*	Ballston Spa School District **Hudson Valley CC**** Saratoga Springs CSD
Schenectady	Schenectady Smart Scholars Program	**Schenectady County CC**** Schenectady CSD
Onondaga	ECHS at ITC (Institute of Technology)	Syracuse CSD **Onondaga CC**** **SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry** (ESF)
Onondaga	Smart Scholars ECHS Program at Nottingham HS	Syracuse CSD **SUNY ESF** **Syracuse University** Project Advance (SUPA)**

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The Smart Scholars ECHS Partnerships
continued

County/Borough	School/Program Name	School District and College Partners
Monroe	Rochester Early College International High School	Rochester CSD **Monroe CC**** **St. John Fisher College**
Westchester	Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies	Yonkers CSD **Westchester CC*** Mercy College Pace University
Westchester	Academy of Medical Professions Smart Scholars ECHS Program at Gorton HS	Yonkers CSD **Westchester CC*** **College of Westchester**
Nassau/Suffolk	Farmingdale State College Smart Scholars Partnership	**SUNY Farmingdale*** Amityville, Hempstead, Wyandanch School Districts, and NYC DOE Students in Temporary Housing

The Smart Scholars ECHS Partnerships
continued

County/Borough	School/Program Name	School District & College Partners
Nassau	Freeport Smart Scholars ECHS Program	Freeport CSD **SUNY Farmingdale***
Nassau	Smart Scholars Program at Roosevelt HS	**SUNY College at Old Westbury** Roosevelt UFSD
Montgomery	Amsterdam Smart Scholars Program	Greater Amsterdam CSD **Fulton Montgomery CC***
Manhattan & Queens	Bard High School Early College	**Bard College*** NYC DOE
Queens	Pathways College Preparatory School	NYC DOE **Adelphi University**

The Smart Scholars ECHS Partnerships
continued

County/Borough	School/Program Name	School District & College Partners
Brooklyn	City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Technology and Architecture *(converting to a NYS P-TECH)*	**CUNY NYC College of Technology** NYC DOE *(an ECI at CUNY school)*
Brooklyn	Pathways in Technology ECHS (P-TECH)	**CUNY NYC College of Technology** NYC DOE *(an ECI at CUNY school)*
Brooklyn	Early Scholars Academy at Boys and Girls High School	**Long Island University – Brooklyn** NYC DOE
Brooklyn	Smart Science Scholars Program with Medgar Evers Preparatory School	**CUNY Medgar Evers College** NYC DOE

The Smart Scholars ECHS Partnerships
continued

County/Borough	School/Program Name	School District & College Partners
Erie	Middle Early College High School, Buffalo *(also a member on the Middle College National Consortium)*	Buffalo CSD **Erie CC**** **D'Youville College** **Buffalo State College**
Niagara	Niagara Falls ECHS Program	Niagara Falls CSD **Niagara University****

Resources

- NYSED Office of Postsecondary Access, Support and Success http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/

- College in High School Alliance https://www.collegeinhighschool.org/

- Jobs for the Future (JFF) - Early College Designs http://www.jff.org/initiatives/early-college-designs

- KnowledgeWorks http://www.knowledgeworks.org/early-college

- The Early College Initiative (ECI) at CUNY http://earlycollege.cuny.edu/

- National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) http://www.nacep.org

- Middle College National Consortium http://mcnc.us/

Presenters' Contact Info

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  Smart Scholars Early College High School Program

  http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/SmartScholarsEarlyCollegeHighSchool_000.htm

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