

ONSLow EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Beginning in the fall of 2017, Onslow County is excited to be opening our eighth high school, and our first early college – the **Onslow Early College High School**. The state of North Carolina’s Early College or Cooperative Innovative High School initiative is in place to provide innovative programs jointly in high schools and institutions of higher education that will expand students’ opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming.

EARLY COLLEGE STRUCTURE

Operating as a partnership between the Onslow County School System and Coastal Carolina Community College – and housed on the Coastal campus – the Onslow Early College High School (OECHS) will offer its’ students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and a two-year Associate Degree simultaneously through a highly rigorous and accelerated course of study. This means that at the end of high school, many OECHS students will have completed their first two years of college coursework and can choose to transfer to a four-year college to complete a four-year degree. Other students may choose to continue coursework at the community college or enter a career of their choice.

Students will begin in their freshmen year as a cohort (or group) of approximately 50 students. This group will have a schedule that will allow them to complete many of their high school diploma requirements during their first two years. During the first two years, students will take courses that are familiar at most high schools. These courses will typically be offered at the Honors level and include Math II, Math III, English I-III, Earth and Environmental Science, Biology, American History, World History, and others. In addition, students will be gradually introduced to college-level courses as well. During years one and two, students will typically take one college course per semester, such as physical education and computer science. Also during these first two years, each student will work with the school counselor, college liaison, and principal to determine the best college transfer pathway. This pathway will determine the courses that the student takes during the junior and senior year (with a possible fifth year, if needed). The Early College High School will provide a personalized environment with extra supports to ensure student success.

Beginning in year three and four (junior and senior years), students will be almost exclusively in college courses. These courses will be chosen based on each student’s post-high school plans, and will be directed based on the college transfer pathways that lead to four-year degrees such as STEM, Business, Nursing, Biology, and Engineering.

STUDENT SELECTION AND CRITERIA

Selection for the Onslow Early College High School will be conducted through an application process. Students who are current eighth graders may apply to attend the Early College High School. Applicants must be enrolled in, or have completed, Math I by the end of the 8th grade. Applicants will also take the college placement exam and must reach a minimum score to be eligible. Acceptance criteria will include, but are not limited to, classroom performance, written recommendations, essays, results on a placement test, behaviors demonstrating self-discipline, and good attendance habits.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the only group of students admitted will be in the Freshmen class (9th graders). Therefore, other grades of students are not eligible to apply. In future years, other admission possibilities will be explored especially for students moving to Onslow County Schools who have been part of Early College experiences in other places.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Onslow Early College High School, please contact Michael Elder, Director of Academic Innovation Services at (910) 455-2211 ext. 20264. You may also email earlycollege@onslow.k12.nc.us.