



INUNISON

AN EPISD PUBLICATION FOR OUR
MILITARY PARTNERS



EPISD AND FORT BLISS

The El Paso Independent School District is proud of its relationship with Fort Bliss and has created many initiatives to ensure our military families feel welcome when they enroll their children in our District. As a district, EPISD serves the majority of Fort Bliss' military families with 6,000 students or 10 percent of its enrollment coming from military students. Five campuses are located on Fort Bliss property – Chapin High School and Milam, Bliss, Logan and Powell elementary schools – to better serve our military families.

Campuses with a high concentration of military families have a Military Family Liaison on staff to assist parents and students. The MFLs also work closely with the Fort Bliss Partner in Education program, which links Fort Bliss units with schools.

A representative from Fort Bliss also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees offering guidance on issues regarding the installation and military families.

EPISD and Fort Bliss established a collaborative committee, which meets during the school year to provide information and discuss how both entities can work together to best serve the educational needs of military families. The goal of the committee is to build collaborations, improve communication and ensure transparency. These meetings are open to the public and give

parents an opportunity to ask both Fort Bliss and EPISD leadership questions and discuss concerns.

EPISD INITIATIVES

EPISD PowerUp is a district-wide initiative that transforms teaching and learning to create future-ready students through active learning, critical thinking and the use of digital instructional materials. This initiative includes digital books designed by EPISD teachers to replace paper textbooks purchased by the District. In 2015-16, EPISD issued 18,000 laptops to high school students to create more equity in learning. In 2017-18, EPISD extended the laptop program to middle school students.

Dual-Language EPISD continues to lead the way in two-way, dual-language instruction in the region. All elementary campuses and selected middle schools throughout the District offer instruction

in Spanish and English with the goal of creating future-ready, bi-literate students. El Paso High School is a Dual-Language Magnet School, the only one in the region. The Mesita Early Childhood Development Center has incorporated Mandarin Chinese to its dual-language offerings as a way to stay relevant to the linguistic needs of the region and the world.

New Tech is a school-within-a-school concept that gives students the opportunity to learn in a project-based setting that differs greatly from the traditional classroom. The program is offered at four high schools: Cougar New Tech at Franklin High, Rocket New Tech at Irvin High, Oso New Tech at Bowie High School and Panther New Tech at Austin High School. Cobra New Tech Academy at Canyon Hills Middle School and New Tech Leadership Academy at Brown Middle School give students an opportunity to discover the New Tech model in middle school before transitioning to their respective feeder high schools.

Early College/Dual Credit EPISD has two programs aimed at giving students the option of earning college credit while still in high school: the established Early High School campuses, and the Dual Credit classes being offered at

every campus. The District operates two Early College programs: the stand-alone Transmountain Early College on the campus of El Paso Community College's Transmountain campus, and the Burges Early College on the campus of Burges High School. EPISD is expanding the dual-credit offerings throughout the District and creating the Dual Credit Academy at Andress High School. The school is set to offer 21 dual language credits this academic year.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Coronado High School is home to EPISD's first International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, which offers a rigorous curriculum highly respected by colleges and universities worldwide. The District recently expanded the IB program not just to the Northeast, but also to several middle schools in those areas. Andress High School also offers the same rigorous lesson plans to students from throughout the region who want access to a world-wide curriculum. Three middle schools that feed into both Coronado and Andress are in the process of becoming part of the IB Middle Years Programme to prepare middle-school students for the academically-challenging courses they will face in high school. Those campuses are: Lincoln and Morehead middle schools in the Coronado feeder pattern and Richardson Middle School, which feeds to Andress.

MANDATED TESTING

STAAR is the state's student testing program. Over the course of their public school career, students will be tested in the following core subject areas: reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The number of tests taken each year will vary from two to four, depending on the grade level.

In high school, students will take End of Course exams in the following subject areas: English Language Arts I, English Language Arts II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History.

Below are the assessments administered at the elementary and middle school levels.

- Grade 3 Reading, Mathematics
- Grade 4 Reading, Mathematics, Writing
- Grade 5 Reading, Mathematics, Science
- Grade 6 Reading, Mathematics
- Grade 7 Reading, Mathematics, Writing
- Grade 8 Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

BLOCK LEAVE PROCEDURES

PRE-LEAVE DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

1. Secure either Block Leave Orders or a letter from your Commanding Officer stating the dates of the Reintegration Block Leave.
2. Plan your request according to leave dates provided.
3. Acquire Military Block Leave Request Packet from your school. The Block Leave Packet also is available for download at www.episd.org in the Military tab under important links.
4. If you have more than one student at a campus or at different campuses, complete pages 2 and 3 for each student.
5. Request an Attendance History Report for your student(s) from the school(s).
6. Review (request as needed) Grades and Progress Reports for your student. If your student is failing or in danger of failing classes, extended absences are not recommended.
7. Submit Reintegration Block Leave Request to the school no later than ten (10) school days before the first day of requested leave to ensure timely processing.
8. Attach a copy of leave orders or letter from commanding officer to this packet when submitting packet to the campus.
9. Schedule a meeting with your principal or designee to discuss the request, the potential impact upon your child, and to develop plans for class credit and make up work.
10. Read the entire packet for a clear understanding of the rules and how your student(s) could be impacted.
11. Ensure you receive a copy of the completed packet from the campus.

POST-LEAVE DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

1. Contact the school upon return to schedule a meeting with the school principal or designee and/or the teacher to discuss make up work and class credit procedures.
2. Ensure that your student has completed all make up work and plans established by the school to secure class credit.
3. Monitor your child closely for academic performance. Seek assistance from the school at the first sign of academic or other difficulty.

OTHER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OPTIONS IN EPISD

Austin High School's Sandra Day O'Connor Criminal Justice/Public Service Academy prepares students for careers in law enforcement, fire, emergency, forensics and law.

Bowie High School's International Business Academy offers students opportunities to study principles of business, global business, entrepreneurship, accounting and marketing.

Chapin High School's Pre-Engineering Program is a certified Project Lead the Way four-year course program. The Project Lead the Way courses are a set of project-based, hands-on experience courses that teach students key elements and skills of engineering and technology-based careers by immersing them in rigorous engineering problems.

Silva Magnet High School on the Jefferson/Silva High School campus offers students interested in health care careers opportunities to earn professional certifications upon graduation for Licensed Vocational Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant, Physical Therapy Technician and Pharmacy Technician/Sterile IV Certification. This year, the campus added Entry Level Lab assistant and Medical Billing/Coding certification opportunities.

Young Women's STEAM Research & Preparatory Academy

Young Women's STEAM Research & Preparatory Academy is a new addition to EPISD. The new campus, which opens this fall with sixth and seventh grade students, will add a grade each year until it becomes a 6th to 12th grade school. It is a partnership between EPISD and the New Tech Network (NTN). The NTN model exposes students to innovation and STEAM-focused instruction to instill learning that models real-world contexts through Project-Based Learning (PBL).



Seven EPISD campuses offer AYPYN programs

Since 2011, EPISD has received funding from the Army's Child, Youth and School Services for Army Youth Programs in Your Neighborhood (AYPYN). Three high schools and four middle schools with a high concentration of military family members receive AYPYN funding to support after school programs Monday through Friday. Both civilian and military students can participate in AYPYN programs, however, funding is solely based on participation of military family members. EPISD campuses participating in AYPYN are: Bassett, Canyon Hills, Ross and Richardson middle schools and Andress, Austin and Chapin high schools. AYPYN provides funds, technical assistance, and training in support of effective after-school programs.



EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The El Paso Independent School District does not discriminate in its educational programs or employment practices on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, citizenship, military status, disability, genetic information, gender stereotyping and perceived sexuality, or on any other basis prohibited by law. Inquiries concerning the application of Titles VI, VII, IX, and Section 504 may be referred to the District compliance officer, Patricia Cortez, at 230-2033; Section 504 inquiries regarding students may be referred to Verna Ball at 230-2829.