The concept of Early College High Schools (ECHS) in El Paso, Texas is pretty new to the area. It was just in 2005 that EPCC learned about these schools, and in that time has created six of them. The premise is simple: believe that motivated students with varying degrees of preparation can achieve beyond expectations. Case in point, the El Paso Community College-Independent School District Early College High School Model. In these schools, in four years, students obtain a high school diploma and an Associates Degree (60 fully transferable college credit hours in a variety of fields). Students do not pay college tuition, the textbooks are provided by the school districts, and the student takes college courses both in their high school classroom taught by a fully college credentialed instructor and enrolls in college classes taught in college classrooms on the college campus by full-time or adjunct college faculty. To-date all of our expectations have been exceeded. As an example, at the end of their junior year of high school, a good number of students from several of our Early College High Schools have graduated with Associate degrees and enter the University of Texas at El Paso as juniors in college. They will continue to take courses in their senior year of high school and graduate from high school at the same time they complete their junior year of college towards their Bachelor’s degree.

Five schools currently in operation, one pending:

- **Mission Early College High School**
  Partnership with Socorro Independent School District
  **Opened July 2006**

- **Valle Verde Early College High School**
  Partnership with Ysleta Independent School District
  **Opened August 2007**

- **Northwest Early College High School**
  Partnership with Canutillo Independent School District
  Designated TSTEM High School (Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
  **Opened July 2008**

- **Transmountain Early College High School**
  Partnership with El Paso Independent School District
  Designated TSTEM High School (Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
  **Opened July 2008**

- **Cotton Valley Early College High School**
  Partnership with Fabens Independent School District, Tornillo Independent School District, and Fort Hancock Independent School District
  **Opened August 2010**

- **Clint ISD Early College Academy**
  Partnership with Clint Independent School District
  **Opened August 2012**