

2026-2027 School Profile

CEEB Code # 443201

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Texas Connections Academy @ Houston is one of the largest virtual, public schools in Texas. We believe that all students can grow at high levels of achievement in order to master a challenging school curriculum in preparation for post-secondary success. We are confident that, with our support and help, and by working collaboratively with colleagues, students, and parents, we will help change the lives of our students as they plan for their future.

OUR MISSION

Everyone at TCAH will be highly successful in our personalized learning community as they pursue their dreams.

OUR HISTORY

TCAH is a Texas Online School (TOLS) that offers 100% virtual instruction to public school students across Texas in grades 3-12. The TOLS program is authorized by Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 30A, administered through Texas Education Agency (TEA). The school was founded during the 2009-10 school year as a 3-8 school and became a public high school in 2011-2012. TCAH is an accredited public school as part of the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Pearson Virtual Schools USA is in partnership with HISD to provide TCAH as an External Performance Contract Campus. (Connections Academy schools are supported by Connections Education LLC, dba Pearson Virtual Schools, which is accredited by Cognia.)

OUR PROGRAM

Texas Connections Academy serves more than 9,000 students in grades 3-12 across the state, providing a supportive and personalized online learning experience. The school was founded during the 2012-13 school year as a 3-12 school. School is in session for 1,200 hours between the months of August and May.

Here are some important facts about our program:

- The school has 303 professional certified/licensed professional staff; 60% have earned advanced degrees.
- Our school has an active chapter of the National and Junior National Honor Society, Student Council, DECA, and E-Sports, along with numerous opportunities for student-led clubs, field trips and organized college campus visits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<https://www.connectionsacademy.com/texas-virtual-school/>

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL LEADER:

Darla Gardner

PRINCIPAL(S):

Elizabeth Schobert 3-8

Sunny Lee 9-12

MANAGER OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS:

Erica Nickols

MANAGER OF STUDENT SERVICES:

Amber Walker

ASSISTANT MANAGER OF STUDENT SERVICES:

Laura Avalos

TOP 5 IN STATE ELITE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Texas A&M University

University of Houston

University of Texas

Rice University

University of Texas at Dallas

TOP 5 OUT OF STATE ELITE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Louisiana State University

Cornell University

University of Oklahoma

University of Notre Dame

University of California

- As a nationwide network of charter schools, Connections Academy provides specialized opportunities for participation in national clubs: Broadcast Club, Chess Club, Debate Club, Math Olympiads, and Robotics Clubs.
- Our students are/have been nationally ranked athletes, professional working actors and actresses, entrepreneurs running their own businesses, activists, community volunteers, and those participating in advanced academic endeavors. Our students are consistent finalists for National Merit Awards.

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

Texas Connections Academy core curriculum prepares students for college and beyond. Students have access to Dual Credit, AP and Advanced courses.

TCAH offers **dual credit** programs through University of Texas at San Antonio, Collin College, Houston Community College, San Jacinto Community College, Austin Community College, and Lamar Institute of Technology for the 2026-27 school year that will include online and face to face courses so that students from across the state can benefit from this opportunity.

AP Course Offerings Include: 2D Design, Biology, Calculus AB, Drawing, Environmental Science, English Language & Composition, English Literature and Composition, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, United States Government and United States History

Advanced Course Offerings Include: Algebra I and II, Biology, Chemistry, English 1 & 2, Geometry, Pre- Calculus, and World History

GRADE SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades based on their course of student, including Advanced Pre-AP or Advanced Placement courses.

The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Pre-AP)	Weighted (AP)
A	90 – 100	4.00	5.00	5.00
B	80 – 89	3.00	4.00	4.00
C	75 – 79	2.00	3.00	3.00
D	70-74	1.00	2.00	2.00
F	0 – 69	0.00	0.00	0.00

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Texas Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students in middle school have the opportunity to take courses for high school credit. The typical course load is 7 classes per semester. 26 units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Additional Information:

Math courses must include:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2

Science courses must include:

- Biology
- Chemistry and/or Physics

Social Studies courses must include:

- World Geography
- World History
- US History
- Government (0.5)
- Economics (0.5)

Average Test Scores

1,352 students enrolled in AP Courses and
191 students enrolled in Dual Credit

