

# Hidalgo Early College District Toolkit

## HIDALGO ISD CERTIFICATE PROGRAM PROFILES

Hidalgo Early College High School offers a range of career pathways, many leading to industry-recognized certificates. Students who earn these certificates can use them as a starting point to advance their postsecondary studies and careers. Hidalgo students have also found that industry certification helps them to get jobs with decent wages to work their way through college. Here are overviews of two certificate programs available to Hidalgo ECHS students.

### Oracle Academy

Students in the Oracle Academy program gain hands-on experience with computer technologies and early exposure to the business, technology, and professional skills that apply to a broad range of careers. Through participation in Oracle’s “Introduction to Computer Science” and “Advanced Computer Science” programs, Hidalgo gets software, technical support, access to curriculum, and professional development for faculty. Students learn and apply higher-order thinking skills aligned with the level of coursework in postsecondary degree programs, preparing for advanced study in computer science, engineering, and business. Oracle Academy students have the opportunity to participate in the Oracle Education Foundation’s ThinkQuest International Competition to apply their knowledge to a real business program.

Supported by computer programming teacher Uma Puri, Hidalgo ECHS students in the Oracle program take courses in Database Design, Programming with SQL, and Programming with PL/SQL. They also have the opportunity to pursue Oracle certification.

### 911 Emergency Communications

Students in Hidalgo’s emergency communications training program learn the responsibilities of a 911 operator handling emergency calls. Students receive in-depth training on police, fire, and medical emergencies and terminology, learning to provide assistance over the phone. Aida Cantu, Hidalgo’s law enforcement teacher, coaches students in practicing with a simulator that allows them to play the roles of caller and call taker during mock emergency calls. Call takers are evaluated on how they handle an emergency call. Students also evaluate real 911 calls, analyzing how they would handle a particular call in a real-life situation.

After completing the training, students take an online exam to earn nationally recognized certification as 911 operators, gaining the opportunity to work in this field as a career or while attending college.