The University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search Program is funded from 2017-2022 entirely from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of $331,778.00 annually.

Office Phone: 915-747-6604  E-mail: mavalos@utep.edu  Web page: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/ets/
Dear El Paso Community Partners:

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of providing academic support, career awareness, and financial aid advisement to students in middle and high school, who are enrolled in Guillen Middle School, Henderson Middle School, Bowie High School and Jefferson High School. The program identifies students from eligible backgrounds, who demonstrate a desire to attend college, and provides them with support and motivation to complete high school and enroll in a program of post-secondary education (college, university, technical or vocational school).

Please review our Program Service Guide, which is designed to provide you with detailed information regarding the following:

- Mission & Goals
- Delivery Model
- Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process
- Services Provided
- Curriculum by Grade Level

Thanks for your continued support of the UTEP ETS program. If you have questions or are in need of additional assistance, please feel free to contact us at 915-747-6604 or email mavalos@utep.edu.

Sincerely,

Myrna Avalos
Myrna Avalos, M.Ed.
Director, Educational Talent Search Program
The University of Texas at El Paso
The mission of the University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search program is to provide participants with academic support services that will increase their chances of completing high school, enrolling into college and graduating with a bachelor's degree.

The University of Texas is currently awarded a five year Talent Search grant (2017-2022) to provide services to 619 middle and high school students at four target schools in the heart of El Paso, Texas. The target schools are as follows:

- Guillen Middle School
- Henderson Middle School
- Bowie High School
- Jefferson High School

**WE PROMOTE COLLEGE EDUCATION**

**WE PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

**WE SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE COMPLETION**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1:** Secondary School Persistence

*90% of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level.*

**Objective 2:** Secondary School Graduation – Regular Secondary School Diploma

*90% of seniors served during the project year, will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma, in the standard number of years.*

**Objective 3:** Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study

*90% of seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.*

**Objective 4:** Post-secondary Education Enrollment

*80% of participants, who have graduated with a regular secondary school diploma, during the project year, will enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation.*

**Objective 5:** Post-secondary Degree Attainment

*30% of participants served during the project year, who enrolled in an institution of higher education, will complete a program of post-secondary education within six years.*

**ALL SERVICES PROVIDED ARE FREE**
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The UTEP ETS Program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have the potential and desire to succeed in higher education (college, university, technical or vocational school).

A person is eligible to participate in ETS if he/she:

I. Is a citizen or national of the United States; or permanent resident; or can provide evidence of intent to become a permanent resident; or is a permanent resident of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or is a resident of the Freely Associated States; and

II. Meets the standard age requirement; and

III. Enrolled in sixth through twelfth grades.

APPLICATION PROCESS

I. Student/Parent completes the interest form (attachment).

II. An application is emailed or mailed to parent (to download an application immediately, please visit our website at https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/ets/eligibility/index.html).

III. Parent and student completes the application.

IV. Application is reviewed by program to determine if eligible for program.

By Email: mavalos@utep.edu

By Mail: The University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search Program 500 West University El Paso, TX 79968

V. Participants are mailed a status update (acceptance, waiting list or ineligible to participate).

QUESTIONS/ CONCERNS

Please Contact Us At (915) 747-8406
The University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of publicizing the availability of financial assistance and facilitating the application process for pursuing a college education.

As a Federal TRIO program, ETS is designed to provide services that support students in applying and enrolling into college. The primary delivery model of ETS is to provide services in a group environment, by grade level, at the local target school. According to the What Works Clearinghouse, ETS has been found to have positive effects on completing high school. Additional support services include one-to-one support, telephone academic coaching and supplemental Saturday and evening workshops for students and parents.

**Services Provided**
- Academic Coaching
- Individualized Service Plans
- Habits of Mind Workshops
- Career Exploration
- Assistance in Completing College Applications
- Assistance with Completing Financial Aid Forms
- Scholarship Search Assistance
- ACT/SAT Testing Fee Waivers
- College Application Fee Waivers
- College, Cultural & Educational Tours
- Transition to High School and College Assistance
- Parent Workshops
- Summer Camps

The Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Talent Search was founded in 1965, and has guided more than 11 million students and their families through the college preparation and application process. Talent Search grew out of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Higher Education Act (HEA), established with the goal of seeing that “no American talent is wasted.” The HEA is arguably the most significant piece of legislation governing American higher education.
Educational Talent Search will help students develop NON-COGNITIVE SKILLS

The University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search Program supports college and career readiness efforts for program participants. This is achieved through the usage of a curriculum that fosters development of non-cognitive skills to enhance cognitive skill development. Research shows that students’ successful development of non-cognitive skills will increase their ability to transition to the next grade level, graduate from high school and enroll into college.

ETS Students are provided regular access to:

- College/Career Advisement, Match & Fit, & Planning Workshops
- SAT/ACT Preparatory Services
- Academic Tutoring Services
- Financial Aid Literacy & Funding Resource Services
- Life Skills & Character Building Workshops
- Exposure to College Campuses
- Cultural, Historical, & Educational Fieldtrips/Enrichment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passive Learner</th>
<th>ETS Students are provided regular access to:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easily distracted, floats through the academic process, may avoid classes, school work, goal setting. May not see college as an option.</td>
<td>College/Career Advisement, Match &amp; Fit, &amp; Planning Workshops, SAT/ACT Preparatory Services, Academic Tutoring Services, Financial Aid Literacy &amp; Funding Resource Services, Life Skills &amp; Character Building Workshops, Exposure to College Campuses, Cultural, Historical, &amp; Educational Fieldtrips/Enrichment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROMOTE

#### Academic Mind Set

Feelings of Academic Competence, dedicated to effort & hard work, finds value in academic success.

### DEVELOP

#### Social Skills

Interpersonal skills, empathy, cooperation, assertion and responsibility.

### STRENGTHEN

#### Academic Perseverance

Focused, goal oriented, works through distractions, shows grit.

### IMPROVE

#### Learning Strategies

Study Skills, Metacognitive strategies, Self-regulated learning, time management, goal setting.

### INCREASE

#### Academic Behaviors

Attends class regularly, is prepared to learn, completes assignments, participates in learning process.

### IMPROVE

#### Academic Performance

Successfully meets academic standards, enrolls in more rigorous course offerings.

### CULTIVATE

#### Active Learner

Able to manage workload, assess personal progress and status, persists in difficult tasks, develops strategies to master subject matter, increased self-efficacy, Envisions self in college.

#### GRADUATION/ COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Envisions self in college.
# Grade Level Service Chart

## What Services Will Participants Receive This Year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X Goals</th>
<th>Program Activities/Services</th>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
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<td>Session 1</td>
<td><strong>Program Overview &amp; Forging Group Identity</strong>&lt;br&gt;Program Overview &amp; Pre-test</td>
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<td><strong>Managing the Middle School Transition</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Perceptions of My Middle School Experience</em></td>
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<td><strong>Getting Along with Others</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>I was Just Kidding: Teasing versus Bullying</em></td>
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<td><strong>Financial Literacy</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>How Much Does it Cost to Be Me?</em></td>
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| Session 1 | Program Overview & Forging Group Identity  
Program Overview & Pre-test | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 2 | The Challenge of the Middle School  
*Using Systems of Support (school/community)* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 3 | Keys to Academic Success  
*Time Management* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 4 | Keys to Academic Success  
*No Nonsense Note-taking* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 5 | Getting Along with Others  
*Resolving Conflict* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 6 | Career Exploration  
Career Charades | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 7 | How Values Shape my Life  
*Delaying Gratification: Short-Term Sacrifice, Long-Term Gain* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 8 | Who am I  
*Valuing Cultural Differences* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
| Session 9 | Financial Literacy  
Program Evaluation & Post-test | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs     |
## 8th Grade

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| Session 1 | Program Overview & Forging Group Identity  
Program Overview & Pre-test | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 2 | Understanding the High School Transition  
SMART Goals Development | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 3 | Keys to Academic Success  
 Asking for Help in the Classroom | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 4 | College Exploration  
Options After High School | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 5 | Exploring College Options | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 6 | Career Exploration  
The Career Game | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/College Access Programs |
| Session 7 | Preparing for Life Beyond College  
The 10 Year Plan | College Access Programs |
| Session 8 | Managing the High School Transition  
Preparing for the Freshmen Year | College Access Programs |
| Session 9 | Financial Literacy  
Program Evaluation & Post-test | Assessment/Evaluation |
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| Session 1 | Academic Coaching Session  
  *Creating a Positive Mindset*  
  Program Overview & Pre-test | Assessment Forms  
  EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs |
| Session 2 | Managing High School Transition  
  *Surviving the Freshman Transition* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs |
| Session 3 | Keys to Academic Success  
  *Charting Your Course Through High School*  
  Report Card Check | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs |
| Session 4 | Keys to Academic Success  
  *Surveying Academic Readiness* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs |
| Session 5 | Managing High School Transition  
  *Cliques, Crews & Cool Choices* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs |
| Session 6 | Keys to Academic Success  
  *Time Management*  
  Report Card Check | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
  College Access Programs  
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| Session 7 | College Entrance Exams  
  *Understanding the PSAT & Plan* | The College Board |
| Session 8 | Academic Coaching Session  
  *Creating a College Planning Profile* | The College Board |
| Session 9 | Financial Literacy  
  Program Evaluation & Post-test | Assessment/Evaluation |
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| Session 1 | **Academic Coaching Session**  
*Creating a Personal Mission Statement*  
Program Overview & Pre-test | Assessment Forms  
EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs |
| Session 2 | **Keys to Academic Success**  
*Maximizing Study Skills at School* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs |
| Session 3 | **Keys to Academic Success**  
SMART Goal Setting  
Report Card Check | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs |
| Session 4 | **Understanding College Lingo**  
*Types of Colleges, Entrance Exams, & Other* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs  
The College Board |
| Session 5 | **Keys to Academic Success**  
*Monitoring Your Academic Performance* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 6 | **Getting Along with Others**  
*Resolving Conflict* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 7 | **Who Am I?**  
*Creating a Personal Vision Board*  
Report Card Check | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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Academic Coach |
| Session 8 | **Exploring College**  
*The Benefits of a College Education* | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs |
| Session 9 | **Financial Literacy: What is Financial Aid?**  
Program Evaluation & Post-test | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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Surveying Academic Readiness  
Program Overview & Pre-test | Assessment Form  
EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs |
| Session 2 | How Values Shape my Life  
Delaying Gratification: Short-Term Sacrifice, Long-Term Gain | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 3 | Exploring College Options  
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Report Card Check | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 4 | College & Career Exploration  
Creating A Vision For Your Future | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 5 | Getting Along with Others  
Effective Communication | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 6 | SAT & ACT Information/ Registration  
Report Card Check | College Board  
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| Session 7 | Financial Literacy  
Financial Aid & Scholarship Search | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
College Access Programs  
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| Session 8 | Exploring College & Careers  
Experiencing the College Process | EPCC/EPISD/UTEP/  
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| Session 9 | Job Preparation Skills  
Program Evaluation & Post-test | Assessment/ Evaluation |
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<td>College Greenlight</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Exploring &amp; Experiencing College</td>
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<td>Researching &amp; Choosing Your Colleges</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Applying to College</td>
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<td>Draft/Complete College Applications</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Letters to 9th Graders</td>
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<td>BIG FUTURE</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
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<td>Session 10</td>
<td>Transitioning into College:</td>
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<td>Crossing the T’s and Dotting the I’s</td>
<td>The College Board</td>
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<td>Session 11</td>
<td>Letters to My Future</td>
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<td>Program &amp; Senior Evaluations</td>
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<td>Senior Exit Form</td>
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The mission of the Parent & Family Academy is to provide parents with the strategies, skills, support and resources necessary to help their child excel in middle, high school and college.

The Parent Academy promotes knowledge of:

- Positive parent/teacher relationships
- Proper behavioral and academic expectations
- Personal strengths and career opportunities

Participating parents will have the opportunity to choose from an array of programs and services aimed at supporting the needs of their children and family. Topics include:

- Financial Aid and scholarship information
- Parent Advocacy in schools
- Effective math and writing strategies
- Homework help
- Other topics based on request

“Parent engagement is an ongoing process of connecting parents, schools and communities.”

CONTACT US TODAY!!!

mavalos@utep.edu
915-747-6604
REMOTE/VIRTUAL SERVICES

Individual Educational Talent Search Student Advising Sessions

Individual student advising sessions will be delivered to participants via phone for simpler topics (e.g. general advising, career exploration questions, etc.) and web conference (i.e. Zoom) for more advanced topics (e.g. report card reviews, CPP mentoring sessions, FAFSA completion, assistance with scholarship applications, guidance and assistance in entry into postsecondary education). Contact logs are being completed to document phone calls and Zoom/Schoology sessions with students. Students are emailing or texting their advisor to schedule advising sessions. The majority of these individual sessions are for seniors who will finishing the college selection process and are making final decisions about college.

Group Student Workshops

Workshops on various topics (e.g., study and test-taking skills, financial literacy, adjustment to online learning, etc.) are being pre-recorded, uploaded to a restricted YouTube Channel, and embedded in a virtual platform that goes to ETS participants. Reports that indicate students have received and accessed the letter are being used to track student engagement. Staff are sending follow up email and text messages to students via text to respond to questions that students may have. This will be the primary method to deliver services to 9th through 11th grade students.

Individual Mentoring and Tutoring Students in the CPP #1 & #2 Program

Students receiving the additional high-quality tutoring (CPP#1) and mentoring (CPP #2) are meeting individually with advisors weekly via Zoom/Schoology. Group sessions are planned for CPP Students later in April and May. Provisions will be made to deliver services to CPP Students weekly throughout the summer via (i.e. Zoom/Schoology) to deliver college coaching services between high school graduation and college enrollment.
To participate in the University of Texas at El Paso Educational Talent Search program you must be a participant. To become a participant, start the process by filling out and returning this interest form.

Educational Talent Search Program

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________

Student Email Address: ____________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________

Daytime #: ______________________________________________________________

School: __________________________________________________________________

Interest Form

Current Grade  

Middle School  6th  □  7th  □  8th  □

High School  9th  □  10th □  11th □  12th □

☐ College Prep Workshops   ☐ Career Planning
☐ Cultural/Educational Trips   ☐ Tutoring
☐ Parent Workshops   ☐ Mentoring
☐ Summer Camps   ☐ Academic Coaching
☐ Study Skills   ☐ College Campus Tours
☐ Goal Setting   ☐ Other ______________________

The University of Texas at El Paso
Educational Talent Search Program
(915) 747-6604