

# Moving to Two High Schools: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: October 18, 2011

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## **A&M Consolidated High School**

Principal: Buddy Reed  
Mascot: Tigers  
School Colors: Maroon and White  
Phone: 979-764-5500

## **College Station High School**

Principal: Mike Martindale  
Mascot: Cougars  
School Colors: Purple and Black  
Phone: 979-694-5800

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### **BACKGROUND**

In May 2009, College Station voters approved the sale of \$144.2 million in bonds, including approximately \$112 million for the construction of a second comprehensive high school. Also included in the bond package, was more than \$4 million for upcoming renovations to A&M Consolidated High School.

College Station High School will open in August 2012 with freshmen and sophomores only. A grade will be added each year until full implementation in August 2014. The first graduating class for College Station High School will be the class of 2015.

Like A&M Consolidated High School, College Station High School will have its own athletic facilities and the capacity of both schools is similar.

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### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

#### **Will College Station High School offer junior- and senior-level courses the first year for my advanced student?**

Yes. College Station High School will have all the core courses offered at A&M Consolidated High School. For instance, a freshman or sophomore may be eligible to take Spanish 4 or 5. If a student at College Station High School needs a course, it will be offered. There is no doubt this will create some inefficiencies in the onset, but CSISD is committed to providing equal course offerings at both schools, with the exception of a few Career and Technology Education (CATE) programs, which will be different at each campus. (The CATE differences are detailed later in this document). For both A&M Consolidated High School and College Station High School, there will be a minimum enrollment in order for elective classes to be offered. Like A&M Consolidated High School, College Station High School will also offer Pre-AP, Honors and AP courses.

#### **What are the differences in the Career and Technology Education (CATE) Programs at each high school?**

While most Career and Technology programs will be the same at each high school there will be three major differences.

- ❖ Both high schools will have the following CATE programs:
  - Arts, Audio/Video, Communication
  - Business, Marketing, Finance
  - Human Services and Education - Foods, Fashion, Ready Set Teach
  - Law
  - Information Tech - Programming, Web
  - Science - Anatomy and Physiology, Principals of Tech, Advanced Biotechnology
  - STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- ❖ A&M Consolidated High School will have the following programs:
  - Ag Science - Mechanics, Animal Science

- Health Science
- Computer Maintenance and Certification
- ❖ College Station High School will have the following programs:
  - Ag Science - Environmental, Food Processing
  - Hospitality and Culinary
  - Construction and Architecture

**What if a student wants to participate in one of the CATE programs that is not offered at their zoned school?**

All freshman level CATE courses will be offered at each school, no matter in which CATE track a student chooses to participate. Should a student choose to apply and get selected to participate in a CATE program after his or her freshman year, and that program is not offered at the campus to which he or she is zoned, he or she will be allowed to transfer to the other high school. As long as the student remains in that program, he or she will be allowed to stay at that school, but will have to apply for a transfer annually. If the student should leave, or be removed from the program for any reason, he or she will be returned to his or her zoned campus. There are more details about transfers later in this document.

**Will there be a band, orchestra, cheer team, drill team, student council, etc. at College Station High School?**

Yes. All co-and extra-curricular activities will be offered at College Station High School, with the exception of swimming, which will be offered at A&M Consolidated High School only. There is more information about swimming later in this document.

**Will there be varsity athletics at College Station High School with only freshman and sophomores?**

There will be varsity athletics for all individual and team sports except for football for the first two years. CSISD determined that College Station High School will not play varsity football with only freshman and sophomores. Since 2012-13 is the first year of the two-year UIL district realignment, CSHS will not be able to be in a district and compete at a varsity level in football until 2014. For the first two years, CSHS will play a mix of sub-varsity and varsity teams in football, but will not be able to compete in post-season play. In every other team and individual sport, College Station High School will be aligned with a UIL district and be eligible for post-season competition. Swimming will only be offered at A&M Consolidated High School. There is more information about swimming later in this document.

**How will CSHS and AMCHS be classified in district realignment in 2012-13 and when realignment happens again in 2014-15?**

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) realigns athletic classifications and districts every two years. The next realignment will be for the biennium that covers the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years and will be based on enrollment in mid-October 2011. The classifications and districts will not be announced until next February 2012. Based on the projections ran during the district's rezoning process, CSISD anticipates that AMCHS will be a 5-A school for the next two years. Depending on how many students are zoned to CSHS, it looks to be either a large 3-A or a small 4-A school. However, this is hard to predict, since the enrollment cut-off between classifications is subject to change. For the 2014-15 and 2015-16 biennium, CSISD expects both high schools to be 4-A, assuming there are still five classifications at that time.

**Will there be enough students to field all the teams?**

CSISD expects no issues with finding enough students to participate in co- and extra-curricular activities. One of the main reasons the community voted to build a second comprehensive high school was to provide more opportunity for students to participate. It is predicted CSHS will have between 650-725 freshmen and sophomores its first year, which is the size of an average 3-A high school.

**I heard that swimming will only to be offered at A&M Consolidated High School. Is this true?**

Yes. Due to the limited availability of practice times, A&M Consolidated High School will have a swim team and College Station High School will not. A member of the swimming team who is zoned to College Station High School must transfer to A&M Consolidated High School to participate in swimming. If the student should leave, or be removed from the swimming program for any reason, he or she will be returned to their zoned campus.

**What about gymnastics?**

Each school will have a gymnastics program, but due to facility limitations, both schools will utilize the same gymnastics facility. Although the schools will practice together, they will compete as separate teams.

**Are the school start times really changing?**

Potentially. CSISD administration has begun the budgeting process for the 2012-13 school year. CSISD is still in the process of determining the amount of reductions which will be necessary for the next fiscal year. One of the items that will have the least impact on the classroom is a three-tiered busing system. During considerations over the course of the budget-development process, a three-tiered busing system will be considered. It is estimated implementing the three-tiered bus system will save CSISD \$200,000 annually. Additionally, if CSISD did not change, it would need to purchase five new buses in the next three years at a cost of approximately \$500,000. The district will save approximately \$1.1 million over the next three years by adjusting school start times. Should the three-tiered busing system be implemented in 2012-13, the proposed school hours would be:

School start and end times:

High Schools:	7:25 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.
Elementary Schools:	8:05 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Intermediate/Middle Schools:	8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Will there be modifications to the streets and traffic signals in the area immediately surrounding College Station High School to help alleviate congestion?**

Yes. The City of College Station is expanding Barron Road to four lanes with a median from Highway 6 to Highway 40. Additionally, Victoria Avenue will be extended to Highway 40. Both of these projects are scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2012. Finally, there will traffic signals at the Barron/Hwy 40 and Barron/Victoria intersections and stop signs on Victoria at the Victoria/Hwy 40 intersection.

**Will College Station High School have a comparable staff to that of A&M Consolidated High School?**

Yes. With more than 600 fewer students at A&M Consolidated High School in 2012-13, many of the teachers for College Station High School will be transfers from AMCHS. CSISD has a long history of hiring quality, dynamic and innovative teachers at all levels. Principals from both high schools, along with central office administration will use various forms of information, including preference forms from teachers, to determine an equitable staff for both campuses.

**STUDENT TRANSFER QUESTIONS**

***Student Transfer Guidelines for High School Students***

*Student transfer requests will be honored for initial and continued participation in an instructional program offered at one campus and not the other, pending the student’s successful admission into the course of study. A student may transfer after his or her ninth or tenth grade year. A student who transfers from one high school to another due to a specific course of study must stay enrolled in the instructional program or return to campus where they are zoned.*

*All students who transfer from one high school to another are subject to review by the University Interscholastic League (UIL), even though a transfer request may be granted. It is the responsibility of the student seeking a transfer to ensure that any and all possible UIL ramifications are considered.*

*Student transfer requests between high schools, for reasons other than to take a course of study not offered at the student’s home campus, will be considered under the CSISD standard transfer policy.*

*Students may transfer from CSHS to AMCHS if:*

- *The student will be a freshman or sophomore for the 2012-2013 school year and has an older sibling who will be a junior or senior at AMCHS.*

**If I am zoned to one high school but want my students to attend the other, can my student transfer?**

No. On October 25, 2010, the CSISD Board of Trustees approved new attendance zones for all CSISD campuses. For planning and efficiency reasons, CSISD does not allow transfers between campuses, with a few exceptions. Those exceptions – as related to the high school level – are described later in this document.

**How do I determine to which high school my student is zoned?**

Please see the elementary attendance zones and secondary attendance zones located at [www.csisd.org](http://www.csisd.org).

**My student earned a varsity letter as a freshman at A&M Consolidated High School. Will he/she be allowed to stay at AMCHS?**

No. College Station High School will offer varsity competition for all co-and extra-curricular activities, except for football. This includes dance, band, orchestra, cheerleading, etc. Varsity football will be offered beginning in 2014.

**What if my family is zoned to College Station High School and we have a freshman or sophomore and a junior or senior? Can they both go to A&M Consolidated High School?**

Yes. The transfer guidelines state: “Students may transfer from CSHS to AMCHS if the student will be a freshman or sophomore for the 2012-2013 school year and has an older sibling who will be a junior or senior at AMCHS.”

Students who transfer to A&M Consolidated High School under this rule will be allowed to graduate from A&M Consolidated High School if he or she chooses. This transfer rule only applies to the 2012-13 school year, meaning younger siblings who are not in high school during the 2012-13 year will attend College Station High School.

*Example: A family is zoned to College Station High School and in 2012-13 has a junior, a freshman and a seventh grader. The junior must attend A&M Consolidated High School, because there will not be a junior class at College Station High School in 2012-13. If desired, the freshman could transfer to A&M Consolidated High School and graduate from A&M Consolidated High School. However, the seventh-grader would not be granted a transfer to A&M Consolidated High School when he or she becomes a freshman.*

**What if my student wants to participate in a CATE program which is only offered at A&M Consolidated High School or College Station High School?**

As mentioned previously, there are three CATE programs unique to each of the two high schools. Even though there are unique programs at each school, the freshman level CATE courses will be offered at both. Therefore, there is no need to transfer prior to a student’s sophomore year. If a student applies and is accepted to a CATE program only offered at the other school, he or she will be granted a transfer as long as they stay in that program. If the student should leave, or be removed from the program for any reason, he or she will be returned to their zoned campus.