

SY25-26 and SY26-27 Early College Academy at Coolidge High School: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9,10, and 11*

Note: This rubric will be in effect for SY25-26 and SY26-27 admissions.

About the Early College Academy Admissions Criteria:

The Early College Academy at Coolidge is looking for scholars who want to be **COLTS**:

Committed to achieving their academic goals and will step up to rigor and persist through challenges.

Optimistic about their and their peers' ability to grow.

Leaders who exercise integrity, accountability, and uphold the values of our school community.

Transforming Society by being mindful of their actions and working to have a positive impact in the world.

About the Early College Academy (ECA) Admissions Process:

Our admissions process includes the holistic review of each component of the application - report cards, the essay, and teacher recommendations. Each component of the application is evaluated according to the chart below. No one component is the sole determinant of eligibility. Due to the academic rigor of the program, we place a higher emphasis on GPA and prefer to see an upward progression of academic growth. We find the most successful applicants are those whose commitment to challenging work is further demonstrated through their essay, recommendations, and family interview.

Each component of the application process is scored and weighted according to the chart below. Applicants who score 85 points out of a possible 100 are eligible. Applicants who score lower may also be deemed eligible. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Academic Criteria Review (GPA)	40 points	<p>ECA reviews grades (GPA) as part of the academic criteria review. There is no minimum GPA required. Applicants must submit their final report card for SY23-24 and first term report card for SY24-25. A report card/transcript and scores must be submitted for the application to be considered for admission.</p> <p>Grades from ELA, Science, Math, and Social Science/History are used to calculate the GPA. Though there is not a minimum required GPA, typically, students who are successful in the ECA have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.</p>

*Early College Academy at Coolidge will review applicants entering 11th grade on an as needed basis. All applicants must have sufficient credits and be on track to receive a DCPS High School Diploma and to earn the associate degree.

Recommendations	10 points	<p>ECA requires two (2) recommendations. ECA uses teacher recommendations to provide context to an applicant’s academic record, level of effort, and overall experience at school.</p> <p>We strongly encourage applicants and families to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf to ensure we have the most complete picture of the applicant. However, applicants will not be penalized for incomplete or missing recommendations and can be evaluated based on available recommendations.</p>
Essay: In My School DC application	30 points	<p>The essay is used to assess applicant interest and skill level. The admissions team will use the essay to gauge applicant interest in ECA, commitment to learning, and future goals.</p> <p>The essay will also be used as a first sample of an applicant’s grammar, vocabulary, and technical writing level.</p>
Family Interview	20 points	<p>The family interview is our first relationship building activity and gives us the opportunity to learn things that may not be highlighted in other aspects of the application. ECA requires applicants to participate in the interview along with a family member (parent, legal guardian, close family member) or other important figure (coach, counselor, or mentor) who regularly supports them. We hope to leave the interview with a better understanding of who the applicant is and how their family supports learning.</p> <p>The accompanying adult’s participation is not factored into scoring in any way.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be requested to be conducted virtually for SY25-26.</p>
<p>Applicants must receive a minimum total score of 85 points to be considered eligible for admission. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.</p>		