MISSION
The Grand Prairie Early College High School (GPECHS) Nursing Academy educates future nurses through professional practice, healthcare leadership and global service. The school encourages all students to dream big, valuing their vision and supporting them along the way. GPECHS empowers students to realize the vision, “nothing is impossible for me.”

NOTABLE DIFFERENTIATORS
Students are supported by Mountain View College (part of Dallas Community College District), where they access facilities, resources and unique opportunities to explore the medical profession. Grand Prairie Independent School District covers the financial responsibilities for the program, including all fees and textbooks. GPECHS students are assisted by dedicated staff in a personalized academic setting and learn from clinical experiences with Baylor Scott & White.

The Nursing Academy provides students the opportunity to earn high school diplomas and associate of nursing degrees within five years of enrolling as a ninth grader. Through this nursing program, students can transition seamlessly into a nursing bachelor’s degree program at the University of Texas at Arlington. The Nursing Academy is a true blend of college and career preparation, and gives students options to fully explore their futures. Graduates are prepared to leave high school and enter a career directly, or they can continue to pursue higher education options. As an industry partner, Baylor Scott & White has generously donated over $80,000 in equipment and supplies for the nursing simulation lab. Through the efforts of many, the future nurses in the academy have cutting-edge simulation training prior to entering the patient care environment.

For more information, call 972.343.6380 or 972.809.5711 or visit gpisd.org/Page/42687

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH REAL-TIME SUPPORTS

ENROLLMENT:

CERTIFICATIONS TO BE EARNED:
CPR/First Aid, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Workforce Ready (Employability Skills and Customer Service), Cybersafety

INDUSTRY CLUSTER:

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) READINESS:
Number of students who have Met Standard for college placement:
- Reading = 32
- Writing = 24
- Math = 2
- Met Standard for all 3 = 2

African American 14%
Hispanic 65%
White 4.5%
Asian 1.5%
Other (Two or More Races) 15%

% ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED: 77%
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

One student was inspired by her older sister to become a nurse. When she first found out about the Nursing Academy, she immediately saw the value of obtaining an associate’s degree in Nursing along with her high school diploma. She would not spend as many years earning the degree as her sister had, nor would she accrue college debt. Just before starting her first semester in the Nursing Academy, her mother was promoted to a new job that would move the family thousands of miles away. Even though her mother took the job and moved, her family felt that their daughter could not pass up the opportunity, and would remain in the area to achieve her dream of being a nurse.

A young male student had always struggled academically and had difficulty finding relevance in his school work. After a traumatic event, he made a commitment to himself and his family to turn his life around. Driven by his family’s experiences and a desire to take care of patients and their families, he decided to enroll in the Nursing Academy and to become a nurse. He is now excelling in the program and is a straight-A student for the first time in his life. His drive and commitment are palpable, and he is already making a difference in the life of his family and community.

“\[\text{I believe that every day is an opportunity to be a better version of ourselves than we were yesterday. Life is a journey, and I am privileged to walk alongside amazing young men and women in an effort to help them discover who they are and who they want to be. What an honor to expose them to the infinite possibilities in the world, and to inspire, challenge and assist them in reaching their individual potential.}\\"\]

\[-\text{Sari McCoy, Nursing Academy Coordinator}\]

Keys to Success:

**Partner engagement:** The Nursing Academy has established partnerships with two community colleges, two universities and multiple healthcare industry facilities and providers.

**Work-based learning:** Students experience real-world scenarios in simulation labs and observe healthcare providers to support their transition into direct patient care roles.

**Academics:** As freshmen, students earn their college prerequisites for the Nursing Academy and begin the sequence of courses for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) health science pathway.

In 2017, Educate Texas was appointed by the Texas Education Agency as the technical assistance provider for the Industry Cluster Innovative Academy program. This assistance includes providing leadership coaching to each campus, creating an integrated network of schools, and establishing tools to ensure communication across schools to share learning experiences. Educate Texas, a catalyst for large-scale educational systems change, has partnered with public and private entities for more than a decade to achieve the goal of improving the public and higher education system in Texas so that every student is prepared for and achieves success in school, in the workforce and in life. edtx.org