

## Recent, 2016, letters of support for EHS

As a counselor at Woods Cross High School, I witness the value EHS holds for students in providing a quality educational option for students whose class preferences leave little or no room for some of the required classes or for students who prefer an online option as opposed to traditional school. I am concerned that eliminating this viable option, will compel students to search for other less reliable and conducive avenues. Working with the staff at EHS is always easy. They are very accessible and respond quickly to my needs and to the needs of students. I am certain that funding this option pays dividends for students and for the state. I urge you to continue to make EHS a funding priority.

Sincerely,

Debbie Perry

**Debbie Perry**

Counselor

Woods Cross High School

[dperry@dsdmail.net](mailto:dperry@dsdmail.net)

801-402-4507

September 5, 2016

I am writing to let you know of the important role that Electronic High School (EHS) has played in my children's lives.

My oldest daughter used EHS so she would have room in her schedule to earn her Pharmacy Technician certification through the DATC. The Pharm Tech program took up two periods of high school classes. It would have been impossible for this daughter to take her AP classes and labs and participate in the school choir and earn her Pharm Tech certificate. EHS made this possible. My oldest now has her Bachelor's degree is working in Finance. EHS played a part in helping her get to where she is today.

My second daughter was diagnosed with chronic fatigue her sophomore year of high school. She was soon limited to attending school part-time. This daughter went from being an active, honors student with great grades, to a tired, sad and frustrated girl. She was able to take classes through EHS which helped her to earn the credit needed to graduate with her peers. She is currently attending college. Graduating with her friends was so important to her. I don't believe that would have happened without EHS. I have another daughter participating in the EHS program. She is currently enrolled in two online classes. She is a junior in high school and is using EHS to give her space in her schedule to take Junior Choir and Xela, the women's show choir. She is hoping to add more music classes next year, which will only be possible with her taking EHS courses. This daughter is a good student. She does well in her core subjects, but choir and theater are the subjects that get her excited about going to school.

My youngest daughter is in eighth grade. She is on the autism spectrum. I hoped she would be able to take physical education through EHS beginning with her ninth grade year. The sensory overload of a junior high p.e. would be overwhelming for her. The public schools have little to offer this daughter. EHS is one thing that will help her have success in ninth grade and meet her class requirements.

My girls have all had different reasons for needing EHS as an essential part of their public education. I hope this program will continue to be fully supported in the future.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Fowles  
1025 E Center Street

Bountiful, UT 84010

While as a citizen and taxpayer in Utah, I have a general opinion that EHS is an important resource for our students and one I feel good about supporting with our tax dollars, our family also had personal experience with it that gave me specific insight into the way it can provide assistance to students.

Our son, Parker had the opportunity to serve a Page in the US House of Representatives for six months of his Junior year of High School. It was a wonderful experience for him, but as he returned to Box Elder High School in the middle of one of their trimesters, it left him little time to complete required courses that he hadn't received at the Page School in Washington, D.C. Through the Electronic High School he was able to take several courses online enabling him to satisfy the requirements of our local district and make a smooth reentry into our local high school.

I can imagine many similar circumstances that keep students from attending classes, and thereby endangering the students' ability to graduate in a timely fashion. From what I know of the EHS, it provides the opportunity for students to acquire any credits they may need to make up shortfalls in a high-quality, efficient manner. That was certainly our experience. I support a means of supporting EHS that will allow it to perform that mission on an ongoing basis.

Thank you,

Brad Mortensen

158 S. 600 E.

Brigham City, UT 84302

(435) 734-2051

I have been a High School Guidance Counselor for the last seventeen years. When I first started as a counselor, I looked for various methods that students could utilize to either make-up lost academic credit and/or accelerate or complement the earning of original credit through an online curriculum. The Electronic High School (EHS) was and continues to be a viable and valuable solution to both of those situations. I readily acknowledge that an online format isn't for everybody. It is, however, for those who want to make it work. The fact that regardless of the situation (make-up credit or original credit), the curriculum and expectations are the same. Students are provided with every opportunity to be successful. As a proctor for the EHS, I have had the opportunity to interact with many students who are taking their final proctored exam. I have yet to have anybody complain or criticize the system. Some have started and found that it didn't fit their situation and stopped as a result. The ones that got to me as a proctor found it to be a beneficial, successful, and rewarding opportunity. Very few failed the proctored exam. Those that wanted to or needed it to help them earn credit seemed to find a way to be successful. The fact that EHS has a curricula that is rigorous yet "doable" seems to have been overlooked and will be missed for its program integrity. Dumbing down the curricula so that little or no effort is required is not the answer for our education challenges. Thankfully, EHS has stayed the course. It is also one of the few, if not the only, online providers who has a list of approved courses for NCAA eligibility. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find programs that meet the standards that the NCAA has placed on non-traditional credit programs. The staff at EHS has been high professional and especially supportive. Many a time Bonnie or Ester would provide support and assistance on the phone when needed. They were an integral part of the success that EHS has enjoyed. Kathy has been a pleasure to interact with as well. She has been passionate about what the EHS is what it can provide. Unfortunately, critics of the program have paid little attention to her sound advice and have tried repeatedly to eliminate EHS from the options available to our students and their families. What they have attempted to replace the EHS with has typically not been as productive or beneficial as

what it was supposed to replace. I appreciate what the EHS is and has done. I would like to see it continue to provide it's valuable programs, courses, and services past this year.

Thomas Marcheschi

tmarcheschi@wsd.net

Thank you for this opportunity to share several experiences that I have had with students who have completed courses through Utah's Electronic High School. I have been a high school guidance counselor for the past 11 years and have been thrilled to offer this option to students. Here are some of the stories and reasons why I like the Electronic High School:

Northridge High School has a fabulous music/theatre program. Students are very passionate about being in plays and musicals. They like to enroll in several choir and theater production classes. Students have expressed the thought that high school will be the last time they can pursue this part of their life because they will be leaving high and going to college, leaving on missions, etc. Electronic High School affords the flexibility to be involved in extracurricular activities at the high school level and complete courses for graduation.

This also works for students who are taking full Advance Placement (AP) and Concurrent Enrollment (CE) classes. Requirements like Health 2, U.S. Government and Citizenship, and General Financial Literacy can be completed in the summer which allows student to take more Advance Placement (AP) and Concurrent Enrollment (CE) classes, thus earning college credit before

leaving high school.

Electronic High School is NCAA (National College Athletic Association) approved. If a student fails a core class and wants to remain eligible for college athletics, they may make up the course with the Electronic High School.

Electronic High School is free. Students who cannot afford \$50 per quarter for a makeup packet still have hope of graduating with a high school diploma. Electronic High School allows the flexibility and rigorous education for students with health issues to complete graduation requirements. A student with arthritis can have a reduced schedule at school, but maintain his or her "on track" for graduation status by doing Electronic High School at home, as their health permits. It has given hope and reassurance to students who feel "left out" of the public school social arena.

In short, the Utah Electronic High School has been a great tool for students and their parents who truly want a high school diploma. It maintains the rigor and integrity of high school while preparing our students for college. I know there are other online programs, but nothing as dependable and affordable as the Utah Electronic High School. It works for our students and has been a great boon to many of them that thought high school graduation was not going to happen for them.

Thank you for your time and ear on this dear to my heart matter. Please consider reinstating funding for this worthwhile high school graduation tool.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dawna J. Burton  
Counselor  
Northridge High School  
2430 N Hillfield Road  
Layton, UT 84041  
Phone: 801-402-8507 Ext 28516  
FAX: 801-402-8550  
djburton@dmail.net

Below are my thoughts and experiences associated with EHS...

EHS gave my daughter the freedom to be involved in her High school. Being both the senior layout editor of the yearbook staff and SBO historian her schedule was less flexible than the average student. Because of EHS she earned credit for classes that were required for graduation, while allowing her to focus on the education that pertained to her individual goals. As a parent it was rewarding to see the growth as my daughter not only earned credits she needed, but to see her learn to manage her time and due dates outside of the average classroom setting. She gained confidence and skills that have carried over to her college experience.

I am looking forward to taking advantage of EHS for my five additional children. We are fortunate to have a program that allows students to make their education their own.

Thanks,

Candace Loveless

435-830-8168

September 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing in favor of keep the Electronic High School. As a charter school, we use EHS for everything. Because we don't have a huge selection on classes and what times they are taught, our students are forced to look elsewhere to find a class they need. We not only use EHS for make-up credits but also original credits. Students who want to get ahead or need the class because we can't offer it at a time they need will go to EHS and find it there. I also like having one place for my students to go instead of several different schools. I find that in one phone call to Bonnie I can get most of my student's issues taken care of. Please, I implore you to keep EHS here so our students can use it.

Sincerely yours,

June Jensen, high school counselor  
American Leadership Academy

As a high school counselor for the past 10 years, I have seen hundreds of my students benefit from being able to take classes on Utah's Electronic High school. The open-entry enrollment process and the ability for students to complete classes at their own pace on EHS has been a major factor in helping a large number of my students fulfill their graduation requirements over the years.

It has been a particularly good option for high-achieving students with rigorous course loads who struggle to find room in their schedules for certain classes required for graduation (Fit for Life, Financial Literacy, Computer Tech. etc.).

I am very hopeful that sources of funding will be secured to enable Utah's Electronic High School to continue operating beyond this school year. I believe that EHS helps fill a crucial need for a growing number of high school students throughout the state who seek alternate ways to complete classes and enhances their overall educational experience.

Sincerely,

Dave Mortensen  
Counselor  
Bountiful High School  
(801) 402-3925  
dmortensen@dsdmail.net

I wanted to send a quick message regarding the Electronic High School program and current funding issues.

As a high school counselor, the use of EHS for our students is vital for their academic progress and graduation. Students from the 9-12 grade use the program for various reasons, such as getting ahead in their progress to graduation, credit recovery and to supplement other enrichment activities they are involved in and would not be able to participate without EHS.

As a charter school, we do not have the resources that the big districts do. Therefore it is the ONLY cost free program we can utilize for ALL students to obtain and complete required high school credits for graduation.

If EHS loses funding and ceases to exist, our students will be the ones who suffer. It is a great resource, and I would hate to see it eliminated.

Please advocate for our students and advise our legislature to ensure funding for Electronic High School

Thank you for your support

--

Linda McGrath

American Leadership Academy

HS School Counselor

801-794-2226 ex 5947

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sadie Smith, I graduated from West High School about four years ago, and I used the Electronic High School a few times throughout my four years there. When going through high school there were a few classes that I knew from the beginning I wasn't that interested in, but none the less I needed them to graduate. Things such as U.S. Government and Financial Planning. To this day these are things that while useful, I don't particularly enjoy. The Electronic High School gave me the opportunity to get these credits, and still be able to spend my school day in classes I enjoyed.

On top of allowing me to get through those classes faster than taking them at the school, it helped me build self-discipline skills. This was something that I had to take care of, no one else was going to make sure I was doing the work I needed. The skills I learned from those classes are ones that I use in my everyday life, especially now that I am in a career. I highly recommend the Electronic High School to people that I know, and I really believe that it is a useful asset to our high school students.

**Sadie Smith**

*Assistant Branch Manager NMLS- 1243290*

**801-878-8988 x 3502**

As a high school counselor, I want to let you know of my total support and encouragement for the legislature to fund the Electronic High School. I have had numerous students utilize this program and be able to graduate with the required credits needed when life circumstances would have normally prohibited them from attending regular school.

I am aware of other online programs and have had students use them as well. The big difference between EHS and other programs that I see and what students share with me is the availability and accessibility of the staff when there is a problem that comes up. I can immediately call EHS and someone is always able to answer my question and help fix a student's problem. When I do leave a voice message, someone always returns it in a timely manner. (Kudos to Bonnie at EHS!!! Our counseling staff have her number memorized and we all love and appreciate her)

The other big difference I see is that the curriculum that EHS uses for their courses is driven by state guidelines and is very reputable. I can trust that when a student completes that EHS course and receives the credit, that credit is valid and not "easy" or "questionable credit". I have seen other programs (both packet programs and online which have been below par, and I question the validity of that credit).

EHS has helped a myriad of students with a variety of challenges and provides a supplemental option to the regular school day. These include students who have had life challenges and who could not attend a regular school day as well as those students who are high-achievers and want to fill their school schedule with AP and honors classes. By taking EHS courses, students have more room in their schedules to pursue their career aspirations in music, drama, art, engineering, medical, etc.

EHS gives students personal choice for their education. This online experience teaches students self-motivation and discipline and prepares them for college experiences. The EHS program is top notch in my book and I have not had the same great service with other online programs.

As a counselor who works in the "trenches" with students, I see EHS as a valuable educational option. I have many students and other counselors who agree and would strongly hope to see EHS funded in the future to continue to provide this viable option.

I would be glad to speak to any committee about my experiences and share my support of Electronic High School.

**Thank you.**

**Carol J. Petersen**

Counselor

Woods Cross High School

cpetersen@dsdmail.net

801-402-4507

Both of my children have been students of the EHS program and have been very happy with the flexibility it has provided them. Both of my children are involved in extra curriculum music programs outside of their high school and junior high. They both have developed their music abilities as to afford themselves the opportunity to play in professional bands that play around worldwide. Each child has chosen to pursue a career in music. Each year they take 1-3 EHS classes, working on it on their own time, whether that be during the summer, school breaks, or in addition to their regular school schedules. In so doing, they have been able to participate in more of music classes offered at their high school which have better prepared them for their college experiences as well as placing them in excellent positions to earn scholarships. We love the EHS program for its flexibility, ease of accessibility, quality of teachers, and variety of classes offered.

Sincerely

Shellee Kariuki

**I am writing to encourage you to continue funding Electronic High School. It has been a valuable resource for my students at Parowan High School.**

It is the only school my students have **access to year-round** and is the **simplest to sign up for**. I can **easily contact an EHS teacher** to discuss

a student.

I can **easily submit accommodations** for an IEP or 504.

I can **easily contact the office** with questions.

I appreciate the **weekly counselor updates** I receive.

I appreciate the ability I have to **show a student what the curriculum looks like** before he/she signs up for a class.

**And the list goes on!**

The curriculum offered by EHS is stellar and well taught by its teachers. I've had nothing but positive experiences for my students with EHS over the years, especially as it has gone through improvements and fine-tuning.

**Recommendations:**

**Increase offerings and offer every class needed for high school graduation and the Regents Scholarship if possible (i.e. physics, Math III).**

**Increase its offerings back to the electives it used to offer; i.e. foreign language, FACS, Arts, etc.**

**Please continue funding EHS. Don't let a "vocal minority" with other agendas influence you to make a decision that would affect THE MANY who use and value it everyday!**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Ava Chamberlain**

Ava Chamberlain

Counselor, Parowan High School

Wk 435-477-3366

Fax 435-477-3743

PO Box 337, Parowan, UT 84761