ECA FAQs for Students Interested in Applying to ECA
(Updated 11/19/2020)

If you have questions about specific departments and courses, please contact our department chairs directly:

**Music:** Amy Christman [achristman@aces.org](mailto:achristman@aces.org)

**Dance:** Mariane Banar Fountain [mbanarfountain@aces.org](mailto:mbanarfountain@aces.org)

**Theater:** Ingrid Schaeffer [ischaeffer@aces.org](mailto:ischaeffer@aces.org)

**Creative Writing:** Saul Fussiner [sfussiner@aces.org](mailto:sfussiner@aces.org)

**Visual Arts:** Johanna Bresnick [jbresnick@aces.org](mailto:jbresnick@aces.org)

Is ECA an after-school program?
ECA is a public, half-time, magnet arts high school serving the 25 districts in south-central Connecticut and beyond.

I live in a town outside of New Haven County. Can I still apply to ECA?
Yes. Students from every town in the state are eligible to apply.

I'm a homeschooled student. May I apply to ECA?
Yes. Homeschooled students are eligible to apply.

Can I attend a New Haven magnet school AND ECA?
No. The CT State Department of Education prohibits students from attending two magnet schools, referred to as “dual enrollment.” If you attend school in New Haven, you must attend either Wilbur Cross or James Hillhouse if you plan to attend ECA.

Does ECA provide transportation to/from my sending school?
Transportation is provided by your sending school, in most cases. Many schools provide round-trip transport, some provide one-way transport, and a few districts do not provide any transportation.
Do I have to pay tuition to attend ECA?
Students enrolled in CT public schools do not pay tuition. Homeschooled students must pay the full cost of tuition.

How much is tuition to ECA?
The cost of attending ECA is approximately $11,000 per year per student. For students enrolled in CT public schools, the cost of attending ECA is shared by your sending district and the CT State Department of Education.

What will my ECA schedule be?
ECA is in session Monday - Thursday from 1:00 - 4:10. You attend your sending high school in the morning for your academic classes and take the bus to/from ECA (if your district provides transportation). Check with your school to confirm your Friday schedule, as ECA is not in session on Fridays.

How do I apply to ECA?
Details about the application process are on the Admissions Page of our website.

I submitted an application. How do I know if you received it?
When you click submit on our online application, you should receive a notification that it was received. You are welcome to call or e-mail the office to double check that we received it.

Will students who apply to ECA have an opportunity to meet with current students in their department?
Yes. We will schedule Zoom meetings so that current ECA students can meet with incoming students to talk about life at ECA.

Can high school juniors apply to ECA?
We welcome students from grades 8 - 11 to apply to ECA.

Can I apply to more than one department?
Yes. You may apply to two departments. Currently, students may attend only one department during their ECA experience.
How has ECA adapted to distance learning?
Our staff have done an outstanding job with continuing the curriculum online in a way that is engaging, creative and inspirational. The work that students have produced during online learning has been impressive. We not only focus on curriculum, but also making sure that students have opportunities to connect with one another and collaborate in a meaningful way. This is what makes ECA special and why students look forward to learning here, not only in-person but online as well.

Are classes single- or mixed-grade?
Some classes at ECA are for first-year students only, others are mixed with students from all grades.

How many students are accepted each year?
Total enrollment at ECA is approximately 315 students. How many available seats there are in any year depends on how many students graduate, and on how many seats districts agree to open.

How do we find out how many seats our district has?
You may contact our school counselor, Julie Michaelson who can provide the number of seats a district has historically funded. You may also contact the school districts central office to inquire.

What are the benefits of an arts education?
Please take a look at this video from our open house presentation.