

THE DOWNLOAD

MONTHLY EPIC PARENT & STUDENT NEWS



Welcome to this issue of The Download, the EPIC family monthly newsletter. Each month, we send you a round-up of news from the school that we believe you will find helpful and valuable in your child's education at EPIC and in communicating with your teacher.

We want to make sure The Download is responsive to questions you have, too. So if you have suggestions for information or news we should share in the next issue, email us at communication@epiccharterschools.org and make the subject of your email Newsletter Information.

Missed last month's newsletter? View it [here!](#)

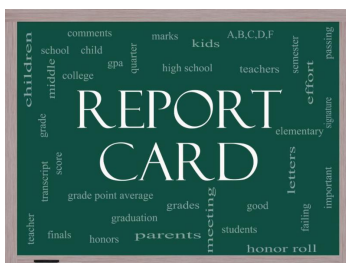
EPIC'S RESPONSE TO RECENT NEWS REPORTS

Many of you have reached out to us and your teachers regarding news reports stemming from a Tulsa World report. We became aware of the allegations in the report when you did...when we read the news article. We are gathering as much information as we can and will report back to you when we feel we have all the details to the source of all of this.

What we can tell you right now is: We follow the law at EPIC Charter Schools. Every day. All the time. We are confident in our full compliance with the law and we know that the truth will prevail. Since our inception in 2011, our school has likely been the most investigated and audited school in Oklahoma because we've been a target of those who don't want public school choice. It's easy to make allegations. Yet at every turn for the last eight years, and following every allegation, we have been found to be in compliance with the law. That will not change.

We are honored to serve your family and these news reports will not distract us from our primary focus: the education of your children. You have our pledge that our faculty and instructional leaders are fully committed to you and ensuring the academic success of your children.

A-F REPORT CARDS RELEASED ON OKLAHOMA SCHOOLS



Thursday, February 28, the State Department of Education released its A-F report cards for schools. A-F report cards have not been released on schools for two years. Every release of A-F report cards has come with a different formula for calculating the grades and this year's release is not only a different calculation but based on state exams that have different academic standards than those of previous years.

That means this year's report cards are a baseline year for all schools. It is a brand new system with new standards and we will track improvement based on this year's grades. School grades are not solely based on academic performance but academic performance plays a very critical role in the grades. Moreover, new elements have been added to this year's calculation, such as academic growth of English Language

Learners. For this year, EPIC earned 4 Cs, two Ds and one F from the Department of Education.

The F came for our one-on-one high school. What hurt us in the calculation of the high school grade is that there is no factor in the formula for the high school grade for the academic growth of a student. It is based on the ACT, the school's graduation rate, and other factors, such as how many students are in Career Tech, concurrent enrollment or work study. Even though EPIC's graduation rate has doubled since the last A-F grade and 85 percent of seniors are graduating if they have been with us for four years, our F is impacted by the number of students who are coming to us from a brick and mortar school behind and the A-F calculation not tracking how those students grow academically after they come to EPIC.

Regardless, we are fully committed to improving our grades for next year. With our school's growth and, again knowing that many students are coming to us behind from their previous schools, we know we have a lot of work ahead of us, but our faculty and instructional leaders are fully committed to improvement and getting each and every EPIC student over the finish line. Consistency is key. The longer a student is with EPIC, the higher the student's and the school's academic results.

Again, we know the A-F system created by the state is imperfect but we do appreciate the attempt to give Oklahoma a baseline for school improvement. Other school districts and education advocacy groups have pointed out the system's flaws, too, but we collectively seem to believe the state is doing its best to create a fair system.

However, we also know that no system can tell the full story of the work being done within a school. No grade gives insight into the adversity some students are overcoming on a daily basis to remain enrolled in school, many after being unsuccessful or neglected in their previous schools. EPIC students are much more than a score. Our school is much more than a letter grade. While EPIC is fully committed to school improvement, our top priority is ensuring your child achieves his or her potential.

CAPITOL DAY 2019



Don't forget Capitol Day 2019! Read the informational email at the link below and be sure to register if you haven't already!

[READ THE EMAIL](#)

[SIGN UP TO ATTEND](#)

New! Be sure to stop by the federal programs table on the 4th floor of the rotunda for information on federal programs available to families.

SAVE THE DATE



EPIC will be hosting a blood drive in partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute on April 11th in OKC and Tulsa.

More information and sign up details will follow in March's newsletter!

RE-ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN

It's official! Enrollment for the 2019-20 school year is now open!

Do not re-enroll using a mobile device. The enrollment form must be completed using a computer. If you need assistance in any way, give us a call or reach out to us through Live Chat on the EPIC website during normal business hours.

Miss the informational email? Read it below, and re-enroll today!

[READ THE EMAIL](#)

[RE-ENROLL NOW](#)

REMINDER: CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION



ATTENTION EPIC SENIORS:

For the first time ever we will be holding TWO graduation ceremonies to better accommodate our growing senior class and to provide better service to all of our families, who reside across the state.

Saturday, June 1, 2019
3PM-5PM

Cox Convention Center
Downtown OKC

Saturday, June 8, 2019
3PM-5PM

Mabee Center
South Tulsa on the campus of ORU

Please note that you must complete all graduation requirements in order to participate in a graduation in June.

CLASS OF 2019 CAPS & GOWNS

You may start placing your cap and gown orders through Herff Jones and purchase other graduation products including announcements, rings, and other items.

A link to purchase these items is below, and we also have a graduation page on the EPIC Charter Schools website.



[CAP AND GOWN INFO](#)

ATTN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: CLASS RINGS



Interested in a class ring?

View the short tutorial below on how to order an official class ring for Epic Charter School.

CLASS RING INFO

If you have additional questions or need assistance ordering, contact Herff Jones customer service at highschoolcs@herffjones.com or call toll free 866-238-5336.

DON'T FORGET: EPIC HIGH SCHOOL PROM



Saturday, May 4th, 2019
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
6PM-11PM

Questions? Please contact Joy Huber at 405-426-7030.
Please **DO NOT** call the school.

MORE INFORMATION

PURCHASE TICKETS

EPIC COLLEGE, CAREER READINESS



Did you miss our Next Step video? Make sure to watch it above!



Are you a student participating in concurrent enrollment, career tech, work-study, or an internship interested in us sharing your success story?

Email us: nicole.ellison@epiccharterschools.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



Are you following us on social media? Fun activities, events, contests, and Epic-related news are posted throughout the week!

Be sure to like and follow now by clicking the icons at the bottom of this email.

DID YOU MISS THIS?



March

Since October, Epic has been honoring a student who #DaresGreatly in his or her academics and extracurricular activities with the title of Student of the Month for either elementary or secondary students.

Each month, teachers complete a survey nominating high-achieving students which is then followed by a committee review and selection. Epic receives over 100 nominations each month! You can view our most recent winners above.

CAREERS: APPLY TODAY

We're continually searching for talented, dedicated individuals to join our Epic team! Does this sound like you or a friend? View our current openings at the button below.

Most Recent Positions Posted:

- Admissions & Enrollment Specialist
- Managing Director of Instruction
- Certified SPED Teacher
- Teacher's Assistant
- Learning Fund Manager



JOB OPENINGS

To request a translated copy of this newsletter please email
Nicole Ellison, nicole.ellison@epiccharterschools.org

