X. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation Exercises

Graduation exercises, ceremonies with caps and gowns, and diplomas shall be limited to high schools and are **not** to be used for kindergarten, grade five, or middle school.

Texas Education Code § 28.025 provides that a person may receive a diploma:

- after the student completes the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education and meets testing requirements stated in § 39.025(a),
- when the student successfully completes an individualized education program developed under TEC §29.005, or
- when a person qualifies for a high school diploma as a veteran under TEC §28.025.

In the Houston Independent School District, regular education students who have completed all academic requirements and have passed all parts of the required state assessments will be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students with disabilities served in special education who have completed all of their graduation requirements as designated by their IEP and in accordance with state law are eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Special education students must be offered the opportunity to receive a Certificate of Attendance after completing four years in high school in accordance with TEC §28.025(f). This certificate is not equivalent to a diploma and does not prohibit a student from earning a diploma at a later date. Special education students who have not completed graduation requirements may opt to participate in the graduation ceremony of their cohort class or wait to participate in the ceremony following their completion of graduation requirements. Those student opting to participate in the cohort ceremony without completing graduation requirements are only awarded a Certificate of Attendance, not a diploma. They are not recorded as graduates until actual completion of graduation requirements.

Regular education students receiving certificates of completion because they have not yet met testing requirements ***may not*** participate in graduation ceremonies. Students planning to complete graduation requirements in summer school may not participate in spring graduation ceremonies. Principals may present an HISD Certificate of Achievement to foreign exchange students at graduation ceremonies, but should not list them as graduates unless they have completed all graduation requirements.

Each school issuing diplomas conducts graduation ceremonies under the direction of HISD School Administration at the end of the spring semester, at the end of the summer session, and at the end of the fall semester. Those students completing graduation requirements at the end of the fall semester may participate in the spring graduation ceremonies. Students who complete graduation requirements at an alternative school that does not issue diplomas may participate in graduation ceremonies at their home campus. Students who meet graduation requirements after their cohort has graduated and who previously have not participated in a graduation ceremony may participate in a ceremony with the permission of the principal at the school of last enrollment.

Graduation Requirements

The graduation requirements for a particular student are those that are in effect when the student first enters the ninth (9th) grade.

- Under no circumstance may graduation requirements be waived

- A student must complete the academic course requirements and must pass the applicable state-developed graduation assessment before the student can graduate.

- All students entering grade 9 prior to the 2014–15 school year shall be automatically enrolled in the Recommended High School Program, and parental approval shall be required to leave the program. All students not graduating under the Recommended Program are required by HISD Board policy to have an exit conference and to sign an 'Exit from the Recommended Program' form.

- Students on the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) who successfully complete Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) prior to the 2010-2011 school year and are not first time 9th graders beginning with the 2011-2012 school year may satisfy their science requirements with:
  - Biology
  - *any two* of the three physical science courses (IPC, Chemistry, Physics), and
  - one additional science course.

  These students may graduate on the RHSP with either of these course sets:
  - IPC, Biology, Chemistry, and 4th science course
  - IPC, Biology, Physics, and 4th science course

  These students are *not* required to complete both Chemistry and Physics for their RHSP.

- For students entering grade 9 prior to the 2012-2013 school year, Board Policy EIF(LOCAL) permits principals to approve a student's graduation according to the state minimum high school program when there are extenuating circumstances:
  1. The student meets state criteria for classification as at risk and is coded at risk in the student system, and
  2. The student is a second semester senior or returning student who cannot meet the HISD minimum high school program or the recommended high school program requirements during the current academic year, even when interventions are provided.

  The student must also meet the requirements for exiting the Recommended High School Program.

- The graduation plans available for students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2012–2013 are below:
  1. The Texas Minimum High School Program (Requires Principal Approval Based on Extenuating Circumstances);
  2. District "Core" (Minimum) Program (Minimum High School Program);
  3. District Advanced Program (Recommended High School Program); and
  4. Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.

The following graduation programs are available for students entering grade 9 in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014:

The Texas Minimum High School Program, Recommended High School Program and the Distinguished Achievement High School Program (Advanced High School Program), with the addition of one-half credit of Health Education under each program and the number of required electives will be adjusted to maintain the total number of credits for graduation.

- The Foundation High School Program is available to students who entered 9th grade prior to 2014-2015 if the student requests that program during the 2014-2015 school year. The student may exit that program afterward and opt for a different available program.

- The Foundation High School Program is required for all students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter.

  All students entering grade 9th grade in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter shall be automatically enrolled in the Distinguished Level of Achievement plan in the Foundation High School Program, and parental approval shall be required to leave the plan to graduate under a different available plan.

- TEC § 28.002 prohibits a school district from varying the curriculum of a course in the required curriculum based on whether a student is in the minimum, recognized, or advanced high school program.

- All graduates including students with disabilities who meet graduation requirements are awarded the same type of diploma. For students graduation under the Minimum High School Program, Recommended High School Program, or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, the Academic Achievement Record (transcript), rather than the diploma, records individual accomplishments, courses completed, and graduation seals. For students graduating under the Foundation High School Program, the Academic Achievement Record will indicate any earned endorsement or performance acknowledgement.

Note: It is recommended that students be referred for special education services no later than the first semester of the senior year. Referral after that date may require an additional year(s) of implementation of the IEP.

Senate Bill 149 and Individual Graduation Committees

New to Texas law, as set forth in Senate Bill 149, a school district or open-enrollment charter school is required to establish an Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) for each student who fails to pass not more than **two** End of Course assessments to determine whether the student may satisfy high school graduation requirements through alternative methods that show a sufficient understanding of the knowledge and skills taught and retested in the subject. Under the Texas law, to receive a diploma, a student must successfully complete all of the required courses all state assessments or qualify for a high school diploma based on an Individual Graduation Committee review. The committee will review student assessment and accelerated instructional history; review student coursework, grades, and attendance; prescribe additional graduation requirements; and or alternate assessment for satisfying high school graduation requirements. All students graduating via IGC decision are mandated to complete additional requirements. The additional requirements shall include additional remediation and for each failed EOC exam, the completion of a project or the preparation of a portfolio. The IGC must convene and their decision is to be captured in PEIMS. Moreover, the IGC decision to graduate must be unanimous.

The IGC is composed of the following members:

- Principal or designee
- Teacher of course for which the student failed
- Department Chair or Lead Teacher
- Parent/Guardian or designee
- LPAC Representative (if applicable)
- Student with Disabilities Representative (if applicable)

For more information, go to:

https://connect.houstonisd.org/Curriculum/SitePages/SB%20149%20Support.aspx.

Graduation Seals

- A State of Texas graduation seal will be placed on each student's transcript to designate which academic program the student completed. A notation of "Completion of IEP" may not be used in place of one of the three SBOE approved graduation programs.

- A school ***may not*** affix a seal for a specific graduation program to a student's transcript unless that student has satisfied all designated requirements for that program. A registrar may wait to affix a Distinguished Achievement Program or Distinguished Level of Achievement seal, pending receipt of Advanced Placement exam scores after the student's date of graduation.

- The seal affixed to the transcript must reflect the graduation program for which the student is eligible at the time of graduation. Additional postgraduate course work may not be used to upgrade a graduation program seal.

- Seals indicating endorsements or performance acknowledgements earned under the Foundation High School Program will be affixed according to law to the transcript.

Certificate of Completion

If a student has completed all academic requirements for graduation but has not passed all parts of the required state assessments, the student may be issued a certificate of course work completion. This student may **not** participate in graduation ceremonies. If a **Certificate of Completion** is issued, that fact will be designated on the transcript. This certificate is not equivalent to a diploma and does not prohibit a student from earning a diploma if he successfully completes assessment requirements at a later date.

GED

A student who has received a GED certificate or Certificate of High School Equivalency but has not completed either the academic graduation requirements and/or has not passed all parts of the exit-level exams required for graduation is not classified as a graduate and may neither participate in graduation ceremonies nor receive a diploma. Such students may re-enroll in school to complete regular graduation requirements as long as they meet the age requirements for eligibility.

HISD Graduation Requirement Waivers

- Some schools have approved HISD waivers to expand graduation requirements above the state-mandated requirements to correspond with specific programs offered in those schools. These expanded requirements may include designated hours of service, related activities, or internship; therefore, a student who satisfies all state mandated graduation requirements but falls short of HISD's expanded requirements in effect at the school in which the student is enrolled, will have two options:
  - Accepting a generic HISD diploma, or
  - return to the school at which he is enrolled until such time that the expanded graduation requirements of that school are completed and the student receives a diploma from that school.
- Schools must have an appeals process for a student who meets all HISD and TEA graduation requirements but does not meet the expanded waiver requirements of the school.

Information on Diplomas

Beginning with diplomas issued at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, the endorsements earned, distinguished level of achievement and performance acknowledgements are not required to be affixed on high school diplomas.

Veteran Diplomas

TEC §28.0251 allows a school district to issue, posthumously or not, a high school diploma to a person who was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces, was scheduled to graduate after 1940 and before 1975 or after 1989 left high school before after completing grade 6 or higher but before graduating to serve in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Iraq War the war in Afghanistan or any other war declared by the United States.

PERSONAL GRADUATION PLAN FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS

A PGP must identify a course of study that promotes college or workforce readiness and career placement and advancement. It must also facilitate the student's transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Middle school students must be provided opportunities to explore and learn about career options in different industries, and programs within different campuses that allow students to focus on a specific discipline throughout high school.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, **eighth graders** will select an endorsement during the spring semester.

The middle school principal shall designate a school counselor or certified administrator to initiate Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) with students. The designee will ensure that endorsement options have been thoroughly explained to all students prior to completing the PGP form.

All eight grade students will complete the demographic information and enter the selected endorsement they would like to pursue in high school. The selected information from the PGP will be entered into Chancery's *TX FHSP Endorsement* panel and uploaded into the district designated platform.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Students entering grade 9 in the 2014–2015 school year and beyond shall have a Personal Graduation Plan on file for the Foundation High School Program.

The high school principal shall designate a school counselor or certified administrator to review Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) options with each student entering grade 9. The campus counselor or certified administrator together with the student and parent or guardian must review the included options for the Distinguished Level of Achievement, endorsements, post-secondary opportunities, automatic college admission and eligibility for financial aid. Before the conclusion of the school year, the student and the student's parent or guardian must confirm and sign a PGP for the student in blue or black ink. The PGP must be completed in its entirety. The date initiated or amended date on the PGP must match the date in Chancery's *TX FHSP Endorsement* panel. The **completed** PGP will need to be entered into Chancery under the PGP compliance panel.

A completed PGP will consist of the following items:

- The following demographic information must be included: Student's first name, last name, student ID number, year entered high school.
- Date Initiated
- The endorsement(s) the student has selected to pursue while in high school and a list of the course the student will complete to earn each endorsement.
- Post-secondary career areas the student is interested in pursuing after high school
- Student's signature, parent or guardian's signature, and counselor or certified administrator's signature
- The following statement must be above the signature lines. *"The importance of a high school graduation plan that includes the one or more endorsements, the distinguished level of achievement, and the importance of postsecondary education, automatic college admission, and eligibility for financial aid have been explained to me."* (Applies for student who have entered high school 2018-2019 and beyond)

The plan may be revised according to the student's interest and the availability of particular programming at the campus. The initial conversation with the parent or guardian of the student's PGP must be dated and documented on the reverse side of the PGP in the parent documentation section. A student may amend the student's personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation of the plan.

A district shall permit a student to enroll in courses under more than one endorsement before the student's junior year and to choose, at any time to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated. If a student amends his/her personal graduation plan, the school shall send written notice to the student's parents regarding the change. Parents must be notified within 10 calendar days of an endorsement change. Each year, the campus and the student shall refer to the plan while developing the student's course schedule. The plan and the course selection sheet shall be kept on file by the school counselor or administrator.

PGP FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

IN DISTRICT STUDENTS

Students who are transferring from a campus from within HISD will have the existing PGP form included in the withdrawal paperwork for the receiving campus. The campus withdrawing the student must advise the student and parent of the current progress of the student's PGP and endorsement(s) before the withdrawal of the student is completed.

OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS

Students who are transferring from a campus from outside of HISD will be advised by a counselor or certified administrator along with their parent or guardian to have a PGP completed at the point of enrollment. The completed information must be entered into Chancery's *TX FHSP Endorsement* panel and uploaded into the district designated platform.

SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL PERSONAL GRADUATION PLAN FOR STUDENTS WHO ENTERED 2017-2018 AND BEFORE. THIS FORM WILL ONLY BE USED FOR 10TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Student ID _____ Houston ISD Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) _____ Student Name

Student Signature: _____ Date Initiated: _____ Amended: _____

Counselor/Administrator Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Graduation Plan: _____ Graduation Target: _____

Discipline	TEA Foundation Plan (credit requirements)	HISD Foundation Plan (credit requirements)	Distinguished Level of Achievement (credit requirements)
English	4	4	4
Math	3	3	4
Science	3	3	4
Social Studies	3	4	4
Languages Other Than English	2	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1	1
Physical Education	1	1	1
Other Electives Health	5	3.5 0.5	5.5 0.5
Total Credits	22	22	26

The Four Year Plan is intended to give you and your parent(s) a guide to use as you progress through high school. You will want to review the plan each year to make sure you are taking the required courses for graduation. Make sure that you are taking the academic courses that support your postsecondary plans.

Endorsement (s):
_____Arts and Humanities
_____Business and Industry
_____Multidisciplinary Studies
_____Public Services
_____STEM

My Graduation Plan Type Is:

_____Distinguished Level of Achievement

☐ (see IEP) ____ Foundation ____ w/ Endorsement

My Post High School plans will take me to:
(Check as many as apply):
____ Two Year College
____ Technical Training
____ Four Year College
____ Employment
____ Military
____ Other

My Career Interest:
_____

	Middle Grades	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English:		English 1 or Eng. SOL 1	English 2 or Eng. SOL 2	English 3	English 4 (or other advanced ELA from TEA list)
Mathematics:		Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Advanced Math from TEA list
Science:		Biology	Chemistry (or other advanced science from TEA list)	Physics (or other advanced science from TEA list)	Advanced Science from TEA list
Social Studies:		World Geography	World History	US History	Government (0.5) Economics (0.5)
Languages other than English:		Language 1st year*	Language 2nd year*		
Fine Arts:		Fine Arts (1.0)*			
Physical Education:		Physical Education (1.0)*			
Other Electives: Health:		Other Electives* Health (0.5)*			
Options for Endorsements: Arts & Humanities Business & Industry Multidisciplinary Studies Public Services STEM		_____ (Endorsement Course #1)	_____ (Endorsement Course #2)	_____ (Endorsement Course #3)	_____ (Endorsement Course #4)

*course may be taken at any grade level

SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL PERSONAL GRADUATION PLAN FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN 2018-2019 AND BEYOND.

HISD Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) Requirements for Personal Graduation Plan (PGP)

For Students Entering 9th Grade in or after 2014-2015

Student ID _____ First Name: _____ Last Name_____

Campus:_____ 9th Grade Entry Year _____ Date Initiated _____ Date Amended_____

Endorsement selections include: Arts & Humanities (AH), Business & Industry (BI), STEM (S), Public Service (PS), and Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

English: 4 Whole Credits

English 1 or SOL 1		
English 2 or SOL 2		
English 3		
Advanced English		

LOTE: 2 Whole Credits

1ST Year		
2nd Year		
Elective		
Elective		

Math: 4 Whole Credits

Algebra 1		
Geometry		
Algebra 2		
Advanced Math		

OR

Math: 4 Whole Credits

Algebra 1		
Geometry		
Math Models		
Algebra 2		

No Math Models after Algebra 2

Science: 4 Whole Credits

Biology		
Chemistry		
Physics		
Advanced Science		

IPC does NOT count as Advanced Science
IPC can NOT be taken after Chemistry

Social Studies: 4 Whole Credits

World Geography		
World History		
US History		
Government		
Economics		

PE Health: 1 PE, 0.5 Health

PE (elective)				
Health				

Fine Arts: 1 Whole Credit

Fine Arts		

CTE AND /OR Other Electives: 5.5 Total Credits Combined

Career & Technical Education

Other Electives

Student has ARD/IEP to support exit.	Yes	No
Student has submitted an Opt-Out of Endorsement form signed by parent or guardian.	Yes	No

My Graduation Plan Type is:

_____ Foundation 22 _____ Distinguished 26 _____ See IEP

My Post-High School plans are to: (Select all that apply)	Post-Secondary Testing: (Select all that apply)
___Two Year College	___PSAT
___Four Year College	___TSI
___Employment	___SAT
___Military	___ACT
___Other_____	___Other_____

My Career Interest: _____

Endorsement 1: 4 Whole Credits Select one: AH__ BI__ S__ PS__

Endorsement 2: 4 Whole Credits Select one: AH__ BI__ S__ PS__

Multi- Disciplinary Studies Endorsement: 4 Whole Credits

Career & Technical Education Pathway Sequence

Grade	Pathway Courses	Completion
MS		A ☐ B ☐
9TH		A ☐ B ☐
10TH		A ☐ B ☐
11TH		A ☐ B ☐
12TH		A ☐ B ☐

ALL courses in the CTE pathway sequence should be listed

The importance of a High School graduation plan that includes one or more endorsements and the distinguished level of achievement and the importance of Post-Secondary Education, automatic college admission and eligibility for financial aid have been explained to me.

Student Signature_____ Parent Signature_____ Counselor/ Administrator Signature _____

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and/ or gender expression in its educational or employment programs and activities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PERSONAL GRADUATION PLAN (RtI)

A middle school principal shall designate a guidance counselor, teacher, or other appropriate individual to develop and administer a PGP for students enrolled in grades 6–8 who failed a State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam; or is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade 9 as determined by the District.

A middle school PGP must identify educational goals for the student; include diagnostic information, appropriate monitoring and intervention, and other evaluation strategies; include an intensive instruction program described in Education Code 28.0213 [see EHBC and EHBAB]; address participation of the student's parent or guardian, including consideration of the parent's or guardian's educational expectations for the student; and provide innovative methods to promote the student's advancement, including flexible scheduling, alternative learning environments, online instruction, and other interventions that are proven to accelerate the learning process and have been scientifically validated to improve learning and cognitive ability.

For students receiving special education services, an individualized education program developed under TEC §29.005 may be used as the student's Personal Graduation Plan. A special education student's IEP is the authority plan and no alternative academic plan should be developed.

A PGP must be developed for students in grades 6 – 8 who fail any section of STAAR/STAAR EOC and those students not likely to complete high school in four years. The on-line PGP, accessible to HISD personnel who are authorized users of the Student Information System, provides student advocates (i.e., teachers, counselors, deans or other principal designee) with an updated view of students' academic performance, while allowing for intervention strategies in areas such as attendance, and accelerated/alternative academic options. The PGP must be updated and monitored regularly by the assigned student advocate who works closely with the student and who must provide parents or caregivers with information on the student's academic performance throughout the year.

For information and/or questions regarding the PGP (RtI) or to set up PGP (RtI) training on a campus contact the Interventions Department at (713) 556-7122.

GRADUATION PLANS

HISD Core Program/Minimum High School Program
SEAL: HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Course	9th Grade: 2007-2009 Credits	9th Grade: 2010-2011* Credits	9th Grade 2012-2013 Credits
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3
World History	1	1	1**
World Geography	1	1	1**
US History	1	1	1
US Government	0.5	0.5	0.5
Economics	0.5	0.5	0.5
Science	3	3	2*
Health	0.5	0.5	0.0
Physical Education	1.5	1.0	1.0
Speech (2001 Communication Applications)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Second Language (LOTE)	1	1	0
Technology Applications	1	1	0
Fine Arts	0	1	1
Electives	5.5	5.0	6.5
Academic Elective			1.0**
TOTAL	24	24	22

***For students beginning 9th grade in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012, Board Policy EIF (EXHIBIT) states students not meeting proficiency on the grade 8 technology literacy assessment will be required to take a technology applications course as one of their elective credits. Students enrolled full-time in the Texas Connections Academy will satisfy this requirement through integrated technology-based coursework.**

****World History | World Geography | Science – The final credit may be selected from either course.**

Explanation of the Recommended High School Program

The Recommended High School Program is designed to upgrade significantly high school preparation. It encourages students to take rigorous mathematics, science, and social studies classes, plus computer science, fine arts, and two or three years of a foreign language. It targets high-level proficiencies and is designed to be a full, instead of a minimum, preparation program. It also provides students with the flexibility to build a strong foundation of specialized knowledge and skills in specific academic or career areas.

HISD Recommended Program
SEAL: RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

	9th Grade: 2007-2009*	9th Grade: 2010-2011*	9th Grade: 2012-2013*
Course	**Credits**	**Credits**	**Credits**
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
World History	1	1	1
World Geography	1	1	1
US History	1	1	1
US Government	0.5	0.5	0.5
Economics	0.5	0.5	0.5
Science	4	4	4
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1.5	1	1
Speech (2001 Communication Applications)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Second Language (LOTE)	2	2	2
Technology Applications	1	1*	0
Fine Arts (Speech may not substitute)	1	1	1
Electives	3.5	4.0	5.0
	26	26	26

*For students beginning 9th grade in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012, Board Policy EIF (EXHIBIT) states students not meeting proficiency on the grade 8 technology literacy assessment will be required to take a technology applications course as one of their elective credits. Students enrolled full-time in the Texas Connections Academy will satisfy this requirement through integrated technology-based coursework.

Distinguished Achievement Program
SEAL: DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Course	9th Grade: 2007-2009 Credits	9th Grade: 2010-2011* Credits	9th Grade: 2012-2013* Credits
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
World History	1	1	1
World Geography	1	1	1
US History	1	1	1
US Government	0.5	0.5	0.5
Economics	0.5	0.5	0.5
Science	4	4	4
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1.5	1	1
Speech (2001 Communications Applications)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Second Language (LOTE)	3	3	3
Technology Applications	1	1*	0
Fine Arts (Speech may not substitute)	1	1	1
Electives	2.5	3.0	4.0
	26	26	26

***For students beginning 9th grade in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012, Board Policy EIF (EXIHIBIT) states students not meeting proficiency on the grade 8 technology literacy assessment will be required to take a technology applications course as one of their elective credits. Students enrolled full-time in the Texas Connections Academy will satisfy this requirement through integrated technology-based coursework.**

Explanation of the Foundation High School Program

Texas lawmakers passed education legislation designed to put all students on a path to college and meaningful careers. House Bill 5 reduces the number of tests students must take, and provides greater flexibility for high school student to choose courses that match their interests and career goals.

The Foundation High School Program contains up to four parts:

- A 22-credit foundation program which is the core of the new Texas high school diploma
- Five endorsement options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses (26 total credits with endorsements)
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement

Pursuant to the requirements of House Bill 5, the State Board of Education adopted changes to the high school graduation requirements in January 2014. The new requirements were effective beginning with students who entered grade 9 during the 2014-2015 school year.

The Houston Independent School Board, in an effort to meet the new state graduation requirements, adopted the Texas Foundation High School Program. In addition to the statutory requirement of enrolling all ninth grade students into an endorsement plan under the Foundation High School Program, students in HISD will be expected to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement. Under the HISD Foundation High School Program, students are required to earn one half credit in Health and two credits to include World Geography and World History as a part of their requirements. In addition, Algebra II is a mathematics requirement under the HISD Foundation High School Program.

Foundation High School Program

Course	TEA Foundation HS Program 9th Grade: 2014-15 and beyond Credits	HISD Foundation HS Program 9th Grade: 2014-2015 and beyond Credits	Distinguished Level of Achievement 9th Grade: 2014-15 and beyond Credits
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	4
World History	1 (W HIST OR W GEO)	1	1
World Geography		1	1
US History	1	1	1
US Government	0.5	0.5	0.5
Economics	0.5	0.5	0.5
Science	3	3	4
Health	N/A	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1	1	1
Second Language (LOTE)	2	2	2
Fine Arts (Speech may not substitute)	1	1	1
Electives	5.0	3.5	5.5
	22	22	26

Explanation of the Foundation High School Program with Endorsements

For the first time, students will be able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area. Students must select an endorsement in the ninth grade. A student may graduate under the foundations high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year, the student and parent are advised of the benefits of graduating with one or more endorsements and must complete an opt-out form. A district shall permit a student to enroll in courses under more than one endorsement before the student's junior year and to choose at any time to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements. If only one endorsement is offered, it must be multidisciplinary studies. Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4th credit of math and science and 2 additional elective credits.

Upon completion of an endorsement, students are required to have earned at least 26 credits. The 26 credits will include the 22 credit Foundation High School Program and:

- 1 Advanced Math or CTE Math
- 1 Advanced Science or CTE Science
- 2 Electives

Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas and programs of study (paths):

- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

- **Business and Industry** (one of the following or a combination of areas)
- Agriculture
- Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Technology and Communications
- Audio/Video
- Information Technology
- Business Management and Administration
- Finance • Manufacturing
- Transportation or Distribution and Logistics
- Marketing
- Technology Applications

- English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, advanced journalism including newspaper and yearbook

- **Public Service** (one of the following)
- Human Services
- Health Science
- Education and Training
- Law
- Public Safety
- Government and Public Administration
- Corrections and Security
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

- **Arts and Humanities** (one of the following)
- 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- Social Studies
- 4 levels in the same LOTE
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry

- **Multidisciplinary Studies** (one of the following)
- 4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- 4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts

Explanation of the Distinguished Level of Achievement

Most jobs require education and training beyond a high school diploma. To best prepare students for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, selecting and successfully completing the right classes is essential. The choices made in high school will determine their future options. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for students' future.

Benefits

The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will:

- Allow students to compete for Top 7%-10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Ensure students are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

- Allows an opportunity to earn an endorsement in an area of interest
- Have more college and university options
- Have more financial aid options
- Better preparation for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study
- Strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree

HISD Distinguished Level of Achievement

Course	9th Grade: 2014-15 and after Credits
English	4
Mathematics	4
World History	1
World Geography	1
US History	1
US Government	0.5
Economics	0.5
Science	4
Health	0.5
Physical Education	1.0
Second Language (LOTE)	2
Fine Arts (Speech may not substitute)	1
Electives	5.5
	26

Explanation of Performance Acknowledgements for the Foundation High School Program

Students may earn an additional acknowledgment on their diploma because of outstanding performance in areas such as dual credit courses and bilingualism and biliteracy; on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, PSAT, ACT's Plan, the SAT or ACT exams; or by earning a nationally- or internationally-recognized business or industry certification.

Performance acknowledgements for outstanding performance in:

- Dual Credit courses by earning:
  - Twelve college hours through dual credit or locally articulated credit with a
    - 3.0 unweighted graded average; or
  - An associate degree while in high school.
- Bilingualism and biliteracy by:
  - Demonstrating proficiency in two or more languages by
    - Completing all ELA requirements with an ELA average of 80+; plus one of the following:
      - Completing 3 credits in the same language other than English (LOTE) with an average of 80+; or
      - Completing Level IV or higher of a LOTE with an average of 80+; or
      - Completion of at least three LOTE credits with an average of 80+; or
      - Demonstrating proficiency in LOTE with
        - an AP exam score of 3+, or
        - an IB exam score of 4+, or
        - a national assessment of language proficiency score of "intermediate high" or better.
  - Under this section, English language learners must have exited a bilingual or ESL program and have scored "advanced high" on TELPAS.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams by earning:
  - AP score of 3+; or
  - IB score of 4+.
- PSAT, SAT, ACT, and/or ACT-PLAN exams by earning on the:
  - PSAT: Commended Scholar, National Merit Semifinalist, National Merit Finalist, National Hispanic Recognition, or National Achievement Scholar status; or
  - SAT: a combined critical reading and mathematics score of 1250+; or
  - ACT: a composite score of 28 (excluding the writing subscore); or
  - ACT-PLAN: a college readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subject areas.
- Business/Industry Certifications or Licenses, as indicated by obtaining a:
  - Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification; or
  - Government-required credential to practice a profession.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
English Language Arts* Proficiency	***Four Credits*** English I, II, III, and IV The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Practical Writing Skills, • Literary Genres, • Business Communication, • Journalism, • dual credit college English, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB English. • CTE Business English • AP English Language and Composition, These substitutions also apply to LEP students. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	***Four credits*** English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2 All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	Four credits English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1and English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.
Speech	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Mathematics* Proficiency	***Three credits*** to include • Algebra I and • Geometry The third credit may be selected from the list of SBOE approved math courses, grades 9-12, including the following: • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE); • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)	***Four credits*** Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following courses: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics (Including Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (AMDM); • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematical Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE); • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE) For students who select **Mathematical Models** with Applications, Algebra 2 is their fourth or final course. They **<u>may not</u>** take Math Models after taking Algebra 2.	***Four credits*** The credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and an additional SBOE-approved mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics; • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematical Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Science* Proficiency	***Three credits to include***: • Biology and • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Both Chemistry and Physics must be taken to substitute for IPC.) If Biology and IPC are taken, the third credit must be selected from the list of SBOE approved laboratory – based courses, grades 9-12, including:	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** be Biology (Biology, AP or IB Biology), Chemistry (Chemistry, AP or IB), and Physics (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP or IB) The additional credit may be Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC must be successfully completed before the senior year of high school, not as the final science requirement, and successfully completed prior to Chemistry and Physics.) Students who successfully complete Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) prior to the 2010-2011 school year may satisfy their science requirements with: • Biology • *any two* of the three physical science courses (IPC, Chemistry, Physics), and • one additional science course. These students are *not* required to complete both Chemistry and Physics. Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP or IB Physics; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems; • Medical Microbiology;	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** consist of • Biology credit (Biology, AP or IB Biology), • Chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP or IB Chemistry,), • Physics credit (Physics, AP or IB Physics), (students on this plan may not count IPC as a science graduation credit) Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP or IB Physics; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems; • Engineering.

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	**CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program)** (24 Credits)	**RECOMMENDED PROGRAM** (26 Credits)	**DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** (26 Credits)
		• Pathophysiology • Principles of Technology • Engineering Design and Problem Solving • Advanced Animal Science • Advanced Biotechnology • Advanced Plant and Soil Science • Food Science • Forensic Science	• Engineering Design and Problem Solving • Advanced Animal Science • Advanced Biotechnology • Advanced Plant and Soil Science • Food Science • Forensic Science
Social Studies * Proficiency	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)
Economics * with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***
Languages Other Than English *	***One credit*** in the same language	***Two credits*** any two levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.	***Three credits*** any three levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Physical Education	***One and one-half credits*** to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit) (Limit of four credits) Can substitute drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester only Can substitute JROTC, athletics,, and designated career and technical courses both semesters. Students who successfully complete a two or three-credit career and technical education work-based training course prior to the 2011-2012 school year may count the class towards physical education graduation requirements.	***One and one-half credits*** to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit) (Limit of four credits) Can substitute drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester only. Can substitute JROTC, athletics, , and designated career and technical courses both semesters. Students who successfully complete a two or three-credit career and technical education work-based training course prior to the 2011-2012 school year may count the class towards physical education graduation requirements.	***One and one-half credits*** to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit) (Limit of four credits) Can substitute drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester only. Can substitute JROTC, athletics, , and designated career and technical courses both semesters. Students who successfully complete a two or three-credit career and technical education work-based training course prior to the 2011-2012 school year may count the class towards physical education graduation requirements.
Health Education	***One-half credit*** or Health Science Technology (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** or Health Science Technology (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** or Health Science Technology (**one credit**)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Technology Applications * Proficiency	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken prior to 2010-2011: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Business Image Management and Multimedia; Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communication Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, (1-2 credits) Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Digital & Interactive Media Audio Video Production Principles of Information Technology Technology Applications	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken prior to 2010-2011: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Business Image Management and Multimedia; Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communication Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology. The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, (1-2 credits) Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Digital & Interactive Media Audio Video Production Principles of Information Technology Technology Applications	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken prior to 2010-2011: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Business Image Management and Multimedia; Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communication Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology. The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, (1-2 credits) Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Digital & Interactive Media Audio Video Production Principles of Information

Technology Applications * Proficiency-Continued	Independent Study (Requires Curriculum Dept. approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies	Independent Study (Requires Curriculum Dept. approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies ** Additional options described on VII-29.	Technology Technology Applications Independent Study (Requires Curriculum Dept. approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies ** Additional options described on VII-29.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2007-2008 through 2009-2010

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Fine Arts	***None***	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.)** AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.
Electives	***Five and one-half credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district. (Two credits can be earned through "local credit" courses.)	***Three and one-half credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Two and one-half credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
English Language Arts* Proficiency	***Four Credits*** English I, II, III, and IV The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Practical Writing Skills, • Literary Genres, • ~~Business Communication,~~ • Journalism, • dual credit college English, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB English. • CTE Business English • AP English Language and Composition, These substitutions also apply to LEP students. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	***Four credits*** English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2 All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	Four credits English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1and English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.
Speech	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Mathematics* Proficiency	***Three credits*** to include • Algebra I and • Geometry The third credit may be selected from the following: • Algebra II • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics [including Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (AMDM)] • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Mathematical Models with Applications[1] [1] If taken prior to Algebra 2	***Four credits*** Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following courses: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics [including Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (AMDM)] • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Mathematical Models with Applications[1] [1] If taken prior to Algebra 2	***Four credits*** The credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and an additional SBOE-approved mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics; • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematical Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Science* Proficiency	***Three credits to include***: • Biology and • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Both Chemistry and Physics must be taken to substitute for IPC.) If Biology and IPC are taken, the third credit must be selected from the list of SBOE approved laboratory –based courses, grades 9-12.	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** be Biology (Biology, AP or IB Biology), Chemistry (Chemistry, AP or IB), and Physics (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP or IB) The additional credit may be Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC must be successfully completed before the senior year of high school, not as the final science requirement, and successfully completed prior to Chemistry and Physics.) Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP Physics B; • AP Physics C; • IB Physics • AP Environmental Science; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design (CTE) • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems (CTE); • Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE)	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** consist of • Biology credit (Biology, AP or IB Biology), • Chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP or IB Chemistry,), • Physics credit (Physics, AP or IB Physics), (Students on this plan may not count IPC as a science graduation credit.) Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP Physics B; • AP Physics C; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Physics; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design (CTE) • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems (CTE); • Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE) • Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	**CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program)** (24 Credits)	**RECOMMENDED PROGRAM** (26 Credits)	**DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** (26 Credits)
		• Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE) • Advanced Animal Science (CTE) • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE) • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE) • Food Science (CTE) • Forensic Science (CTE)	• Advanced Animal Science (CTE) • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE) • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE) • Food Science (CTE) • Forensic Science (CTE)
Social Studies * Proficiency	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Three and one-half credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12)
Economics * with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***	***One-half credit (Grade 12)***
Languages Other Than English *	***One credit*** in the same language	***Two credits*** any two levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.	***Three credits*** any three levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.

* College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	**CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program)** (24 Credits)	**RECOMMENDED PROGRAM** (26 Credits)	**DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM** (26 Credits)
Physical Education	***One ~~and one-half~~ credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)	***One ~~and one-half~~ credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)	***One ~~and one-half~~ credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)
Health Education	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)

* College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Technology Applications ***** Proficiency	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, Digital & Interactive Media, Principles of Information Technology, Audio Video Production, Technology Applications Independent Study (with Curriculum Department approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, Digital & Interactive Media, Principles of Information Technology, Audio Video Production, Technology Applications Independent Study (with Curriculum Department approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies ** Additional options described on VII-29.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by the following courses, if taken prior to 2012-2013: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Multimedia, Telecommunications and Networking, Video Technology, Web Mastering, The following courses, if taken in 2012-2013 and following years: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Digital Design Digital Art and Animation Digital Video and Production Web Design The following courses, if taken in 2010-2011 and following years: Business Information Management I, Business Information Management II, Computer Programming, Advanced Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, Digital & Interactive Media, Principles of Information Technology, Audio Video Production, Technology Applications Independent Study (with Curriculum Department approval) Intro to Engineering plus Principles of Engineering satisfy Independent Study course requirements Web Technologies ** Additional options described on VII-29.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2010-2011 through 2011-2012

DISCIPLINE	CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (24 Credits)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Fine Arts	***One credit*** • *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE);* • *Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;* • *Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;* • Music, *Level I, II, III, or IV;* • Theatre, *Level I, II, III, or IV* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.)** AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.
Electives	***Six credits (If TLA Proficient, 5 credits If not)*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district. (Two credits can be earned through "local credit" courses.)	***Five credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Four credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

*** Board Policy EIF(EXIHIBIT) states students not meeting proficiency on the grade 8 technology literacy assessment will be required to take a technology applications course as one of their elective credits.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
English Language Arts* Proficiency	***Four Credits*** English I, II, III, and IV The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Practical Writing Skills, • Literary Genres, • Journalism, • dual credit college English, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB English. • CTE Business English • AP English Language and Composition, These substitutions also apply to LEP students. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	***Four credits*** English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2 All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.	Four credits English I, II, III, and IV AP, IB, or college courses may substitute. LEP immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1and English II SOL for English 2. All nonimmigrant LEP students may substitute English I, II, III, IV (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Transitional) for English I, II, III, IV.
Speech	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)	***One-half credit*** Communication Applications Professional Communications (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Mathematics* Proficiency	***Three credits*** to include • Algebra I and • Geometry The third credit may be selected from the following: • Algebra II* • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics [including Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (AMDM)] • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • Algebraic Reasoning • Statistics • Discrete Mathematics • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Mathematical Models with Applications	***Four credits*** Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following courses: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics [including Advanced Mathematical Decision Making (AMDM)] • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • Algebraic Reasoning • Statistics • Discrete Mathematics • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Mathematical Models with Applications[1] [1] If successfully completed prior to Algebra 2	***Four credits*** The credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and an additional SBOE-approved mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite: • Precalculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics; • Statistics • Discrete Mathematics • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematical Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • concurrent enrollment in college mathematics courses • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

***** The final credit may be Algebra II. A student may not combine a half credit of Algebra II with a half credit from another mathematics course to satisfy the final mathematics credit requirement.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Science* Proficiency	***Two credits to include***: • Biology and • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Both Chemistry and Physics must be taken to substitute for IPC.) A student may substitute a chemistry (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), or a physics (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics) and then must use the second of these two courses as an academic elective credit.	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** be Biology (Biology, AP or IB Biology), Chemistry (Chemistry, AP or IB), and Physics (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP or IB) The additional credit may be Integrated Physics and Chemistry and successfully completed prior to Chemistry and Physics. Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP Physics B; • AP Physics C; • IB Physics • AP Environmental Science; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design (CTE) • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems (CTE); • Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE)	***Four credits*** Three credits **must** consist of • Biology credit (Biology, AP or IB Biology), • Chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP or IB Chemistry,), • Physics credit (Physics, AP or IB Physics), (Students on this plan may not count IPC as a science graduation credit.) Student may select the fourth required credit from any of the following courses: • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP or IB Biology; • AP or IB Chemistry; • AP Physics B; • AP Physics C; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Physics; • IB Environmental Systems • Scientific Research and Design (CTE) • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems (CTE); • Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE) • Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
		• Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE) • Advanced Animal Science (CTE) • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE) • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE) • Food Science (CTE) • Forensic Science (CTE)	• Advanced Animal Science (CTE) • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE) • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE) • Food Science (CTE) • Forensic Science (CTE)
Social Studies * Proficiency	***Three credits taken in prescribed sequence*** Two credits must consist of US History (one credit), US Government (one-half credit) and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System (one-half credit). The final credit may be selected from World History and World Geography.	***Four credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12) Economics one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Four credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12) Economics one-half credit (Grade 12)
Languages Other Than English *	***Zero credit***	***Two credits*** any two levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.	***Three credits*** any three levels in the same language AP, IB, or dual credit college courses may substitute.

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Physical Education	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports Credit for courses listed above may be earned through participation in: • Athletics • JROTC • Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus Credit for one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities: • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading All allowed activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. (Limit of four credits.)
Health Education	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2012-2013 through 2013-2014

DISCIPLINE	TEA CORE PROGRAM (Minimum High School Program) (22 Credits)	TEA RECOMMENDED PROGRAM (26 Credits)	TEA DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (26 Credits)
Fine Arts	***One credit*** • *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE);* • *Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;* • *Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;* • Music, *Level I, II, III, or IV;* • Theatre, *Level I, II, III, or IV* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117 or *Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)* **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.)** AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.
Electives	***Six credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Five credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Four credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.
Academic Elective	***One credit*** The credit must be selected from World History, World Geography, or SBOE approved science course(s). If a student elects to replace IPC with either Chemistry or Physics, the academic elective be the other of these two science courses.		***Four advanced measures***

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (26 Credits)
English Language Arts* Proficiency	***Four Credits*** English I, II, and III The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Independent Study in English • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Literary Genres, • Adv Broadcast Journalism 3, • Adv Journalism: Newspaper 3, • Adv Journalism: Yearbook 3, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB Language Studies A1 HL. • CTE Business English • Humanities • Public Speaking 3 • Comm App (½ credit + ½ add'l ELA) • Oral Interpretation 3 • Debate 3 • Independent Study in Speech • Independent Study in Journalism • A locally developed ELA course (w/apprenticeship & certification) • A locally developed college prep ELA course These substitutions also apply to ELL students. ELL immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. AP, IB, or college courses may substitute.	***Four credits*** English I, II and III The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Independent Study in English • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Literary Genres, • Adv Broadcast Journalism 3, • Adv Journalism: Newspaper 3, • Adv Journalism: Yearbook 3, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB Language Studies A1 HL. • CTE Business English • Humanities • Public Speaking 3 • Comm APP (½ credit + ½ add'l ELA) • Oral Interpretation 3 • Debate 3 • Independent Study in Speech • Independent Study in Journalism • A locally developed ELA course (w/apprenticeship & certification) • A locally developed college prep ELA course These substitutions also apply to ELL students. ELL immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. AP, IB, or college courses may substitute.	***Four credits*** English I, II and III The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by: • English IV, • Independent Study in English • Research/Technical Writing, • Creative/Imaginative Writing, • Literary Genres, • Adv Broadcast Journalism 3, • Adv Journalism: Newspaper 3, • Adv Journalism: Yearbook 3, • AP English Literature and Composition, • IB Language Studies A1 HL. • CTE Business English • Humanities • Public Speaking 3 • Comm App (½ credit + ½ add'l ELA) • Oral Interpretation 3 • Debate 3 • Independent Study in Speech • Independent Study in Journalism • A locally developed ELA course (w/apprenticeship & certification) • A locally developed college prep ELA course These substitutions also apply to ELL students. ELL immigrants may substitute English I SOL for English 1 & English II SOL for English 2. AP, IB, or college courses may substitute.

College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (26 Credits)
Mathematics* Proficiency [1] If taken prior to Algebra 2 Math Models may not be used as a 4th math.	***Three credits*** to include • Algebra I and • Geometry Additional credit selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses: • Algebra II • Pre-calculus; • Independent Study in Mathematics • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • Discrete Mathematics • Statistics • Algebraic Reasoning • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science A; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Standard Level; • IB Mathematics Higher Level; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Business Decision Making (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Digital Electronic (CTE) • Math for Medical Professionals • Robotics Programming & Design • Robotics II • Mathematical Models with Applications[1] • Discrete Math for Computer Science • Advanced dual credit course • Financial Mathematics • Locally developed math course w/apprenticeship & certification	***Three credits*** Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II	***Four credits*** The credits must consist of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and an advanced course. Additional credit selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses: • Algebra II • Pre-calculus; • Independent Study in Math • Advanced Quantitative Reasoning • Discrete Mathematics • Statistics • Algebraic Reasoning • AP Statistics; • AP Calculus AB; • AP Calculus BC; • AP Computer Science; • IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; • IB Mathematics SL; • IB Mathematics HL; • IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; • Engineering Mathematics (CTE); • Statistics and Business Decision Making (CTE) • Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)[1]; • Digital Electronic (CTE) • Robotics Programming & Design • Mathematical Models with Applications[1] • Discrete Math for Computer Science • Advanced dual credit course • Financial Mathematics • Applied Math for Technical Prof. • Accounting II • Manufacturing Engineer. Tech II • Locally developed math course w/apprenticeship & certification • Locally developed college prep math course

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (26 Credits)
Science* Proficiency Credit may not be earned for both Physics and Principles of Technology to satisfy science credit requirements. Arts and Humanities endorsement may substitute ELA, Social Studies, LOTE, or Fine Arts course for the Science course with parent permission.	***Three credits*** One credit must consist of Biology, AP Biology or IB Biology. One credit must be selected from: • IPC; • Chemistry; • AP Chemistry; • IB Chemistry; • Physics; • Principles of Technology; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; and • IB Physics The additional credits may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses subject to prerequisite requirements :Chemistry; • Physics; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP Biology; • AP Chemistry; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics C; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Biology; • IB Chemistry; • IB Physics; • IB Environmental Systems; • Advanced Animal Science (CTE); • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE); • Anatomy and Physiology (CTE);	***Three credits*** One credit must consist of Biology, AP Biology or IB Biology. One credit must be selected from: • IPC; • Chemistry; • AP Chemistry; • IB Chemistry; • Physics; • Principles of Technology; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; and • IB Physics The additional credits may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses subject to prerequisite requirements • Chemistry; • Physics; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP Biology; • AP Chemistry; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics C; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Biology; • IB Chemistry; • IB Physics; • IB Environmental Systems; • Advanced Animal Science (CTE); • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE); • Anatomy and Physiology (CTE);	***Four credits*** One credit must consist of Biology, or an AP or IB Biology course. One credit must be selected from: • IPC; • Chemistry; • AP Chemistry; • IB Chemistry; • Physics; • Principles of Technology; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; and • IB Physics The additional credits may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses subject to prerequisite requirements • Chemistry; • Physics; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • AP Biology; • AP Chemistry; • AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based; • AP Physics C; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Biology; • IB Chemistry; • IB Physics; • IB Environmental Systems; • Advanced Animal Science (CTE); • Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE);

College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (26 Credits)
Science* Proficiency (continued)	• Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE); • Food Science (CTE); • Forensic Science (CTE); • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE); • Principles of Technology; • Scientific Research and Design (CTE); • Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE); • Engineering Science • Principles of Engineering (CTE); • Advanced dual credit course • A locally developed science course (w/apprenticeship & certification)	• Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE); • Food Science (CTE); • Forensic Science (CTE); • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE); • Principles of Technology; • Scientific Research and Design (CTE); • Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE); • Engineering Science • Principles of Engineering (CTE); • Advanced dual credit course • A locally developed science course (w/apprenticeship & certification)	• Anatomy and Physiology (CTE) • Medical Microbiology (CTE); • Pathophysiology (CTE); • Food Science (CTE); • Forensic Science (CTE); • Advanced Biotechnology (CTE); • Principles of Technology; • Scientific Research and Design (CTE); • Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE); • Engineering Science • Advanced dual credit course • A locally developed science course (w/apprenticeship & certification)
Social Studies * Proficiency	***Three credits taken in prescribed sequence*** Two credits must consist of US History (one credit), US Government (one-half credit) and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System (one-half credit). The final credit may be selected from World History and World Geography.	***Four credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12) Economics one-half credit (Grade 12)	***Four credits taken in prescribed sequence*** World Geography Studies - one credit (Grade 9) World History Studies - one credit (Grade 10) US History Since Reconstruction - one credit (Grade 11) US Government - one-half credit (Grade 12) Economics one-half credit (Grade 12)
Languages Other Than English * Computer Science credits must be earned before 9-1-16.	***Two credits*** The credits may be selected from the following: • any two levels in the same language; or • two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, and III. Special Provisions for 504 students and students with disabilities can be found 19 TAC Chapter 74.	***Two credits*** The credits may be selected from the following: • any two levels in the same language; or • two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, and III. Special Provisions for 504 students and students with disabilities can be found 19 TAC Chapter 74.	***Two credits*** The credits may be selected from the following: • any two levels in the same language; or • two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, and III. Special Provisions for 504 students and students with disabilities can be found 19 TAC Chapter 74.

College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	**TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM** (22 Credits)	**HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM** (22 Credits)	**HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT** (26 Credits)
Languages Other Than English (continued)	• One credit in a foreign language and one credit in: Special Topics in Language & Culture, LOTE, or computer programming languages, if student is unlikely to be successful in 2nd year language.	• One credit in a foreign language and one credit in: Special Topics in Language & Culture, LOTE, or computer programming languages, if student is unlikely to be successful in 2nd year language.	• One credit in a foreign language and one credit in: Special Topics in Language & Culture, LOTE, or computer programming languages, if student is unlikely to be successful in 2nd year language.
Physical Education	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports • Other TEKS course w/100 minutes per week of physical activity • Athletics • JROTC • Other Commissioner and district approved physical activity programs • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading • Other core elective if student cannot participate per ARD/504	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports • Other TEKS course w/100 minutes per week of physical activity • Athletics • JROTC • Other Commissioner and district approved physical activity programs • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading • Other core elective if student cannot participate per ARD/504	***One credit*** • Foundations of Personal Fitness • Adventure/Outdoor Education • Aerobic Activities • Team or Individual Sports • Other TEKS course w/100 minutes per week of physical activity • Athletics • JROTC • Other Commissioner and district approved physical activity programs • Drill Team • Marching Band • Cheerleading • Other core elective if student cannot participate per ARD/504
Health Education		***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)	***One-half credit*** Principals of Health Science (**one credit**)

***** College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING 9TH-GRADE in 2014-2015 and beyond

DISCIPLINE	TEA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (22 Credits)	HISD DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT (26 Credits)
Fine Arts	***One credit*** • Art, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Music, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV • Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE); • Digital Art and Animation; • 3-D Modeling and Animation • Board and TEA approved community-based program **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** • Art, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Music, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV • Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE); • Digital Art and Animation; • 3-D Modeling and Animation • Board and TEA approved community-based program **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.	***One credit*** • Art, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Music, Level I, II, III, or IV; • Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV • Principals and Elements of Floral Design (CTE); • Digital Art and Animation; • 3-D Modeling and Animation • Board and TEA approved community-based program **(Speech and Debate may not substitute.**) AP, IB, or dual credit college fine arts courses may substitute.
Electives	***Five credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Three and one-half credits*** These are elective credits to be selected from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 as specified in TAC §74.1; • state-approved innovative courses, • Junior Reserve Office Training Corps (JROTC) (one to four credits); or • Driver Education (one-half credit) – transferred from another school district.	***Five and one-half credits*** These credits include the completion of endorse requirements.

College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

Technology Applications Course Sequence Option

Students may also satisfy their technology applications proficiency through the completion of three credits (for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technical education courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep High School plan of study) consisting of two or more state-approved Career and Technical Education courses in TAC Chapters 127 and 130. Districts shall ensure that Career and Technical Education courses, including innovative courses, in a coherent sequence used to meet the technology applications credit are appropriate to collectively teach the knowledge and skills found in any of the approved technology applications courses. Students pursuing the technology applications option described in this subparagraph must demonstrate proficiency in the technology applications prior to the beginning of Grade 11.

TECH PREP/ "2+2 OR 4+2" PROGRAMS

Tech Prep education program is a combined secondary and post-secondary program which may begin with grade 9 of high school and continue through two years of post-secondary education which: Tech Prep Programs are developed, implemented, and maintained in partnership among the CTE department, secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, business and industry and approved by Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Coordinating Board which leads to post- secondary education and/or employment in an occupational field.

The Tech Prep Program is also compatible with the Recommended High School Program. Students completing a TEA-approved Tech Prep Program would meet the criteria for the Recommended High School Program as long as the program meets the English, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, health, fine arts, and computing proficiencies, and provides the equivalent of a 24-credit program (or 26-credit program for 9th graders entering in 2007-2008). It could also satisfy the requirements of the Distinguished Achievement Program if applicable advanced measures are completed.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose of the Distinguished Achievement Program	**The Distinguished Achievement Program recognizes students who demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students or work done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry, or community service.**
Standards for Approval of Requirements	♦ **Advanced measures focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level.** ♦ **Student performance is assessed through an external review process.**
Requirements of the Distinguished Achievement Program	**Students *must* complete the requirements found in §74.1 and receive any combination of four of the following advanced measures (examples: two AP examinations, one college course, one research project OR four AP examinations). Original research/projects may not be used for more than two of the four advanced measures. The measures must focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level. Advanced measures include:** ♦ **Original research/project that is:** ‣ **judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or** ‣ **conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience;** ♦ **Test data where a student receives:** ‣ **a score of three or above on the College Board Advanced Placement examination;** ‣ **a score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination; or** ‣ **a score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of the College Board; or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student; or** **College academic courses, advanced technical credit courses, and dual credit courses, including local articulation, with a grade of 3.0 or higher. Each college course taken for dual credit counts as one advanced measure for DAP purposes.**

GRADUATION PROVISIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The following are requirements for graduation for students with disabilities:

- Minimum credit requirements documented on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript)
- Graduation Plan
- ARD/IEP Supplement: Graduation Options
- ARD/IEP Supplement: Transition Statement of Needed Services

The ARD/IEP Committee develops the Graduation Plan and identifies the student's graduation options on the ARD/IEP Supplement: Graduation Plan.

A student receiving special education services may earn a high school diploma in one of four ways:

(a) the student has satisfactorily completed the state's or district's (whichever is greater) minimum curriculum and credit requirements for graduation under the Recommended or DAP high school programs applicable to students in general education, including satisfactory performance on the exit-level assessment instrument.

(b) the student has satisfactorily completed the state's or district's (whichever is greater) minimum curriculum and credit requirements for graduation under the Minimum high school program applicable to students in general education and participated in the required state assessments. The ARD/IEP committee shall determine whether satisfactory performance on a required state assessment shall also be required for graduation. TAC §89.1070(b)(2).

(c) A student receiving special education services may also graduate and receive a high school diploma when the student's ARD/IEP committee has determined the student has successfully completed:

  (1) the state's or district's (whichever is greater) minimum credit requirements for students in general education, or

  (2) the state's or district's minimum curriculum requirements to the extent possible with modifications/substitutions as determined by the ARD/IEP committee for the student to receive an appropriate education

  (3) participating in required assessments as determined appropriate by the ARD/IEP committee, and

  (4) fulfilling other requirements outlined in the IEP including one of the following:

    (A) full-time employment, based on the student's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to sufficient self-help skills to enable the student to maintain employment without direct and ongoing educational support from HISD personnel.

    (B) demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that do not require direct ongoing educational support from HISD personnel.

(C) access to services which are not within the legal responsibility of public education, or employment or educational options for which the student has been prepared by the academic program.

(d) A student receiving special education services may also graduate and receive a regular high school upon the ARD/IEP committee determining that the student no longer meets age eligibility requirements and has completed the requirements specified in the IEP.

(e) When considering a student's graduation under subsection (C) of this section, the student shall be evaluated prior to graduation, as required by 34 CFRS §30.0534(c), and the ARD/IEP committee shall consider the evaluation, the views of the parent and/or student, and, when appropriate, seek in writing and consider, written recommendations from adult service agencies.

(f) Students who participate in graduation ceremonies but who are not graduating under subsection (c) of this section and who will remain in school to complete their education do not have to be evaluated in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(g) Employability and self-help skills referenced under subsection (c) of this section are those skills directly related to the preparation of students for employment, including general skills necessary to obtain or retain employment.

(h) For students who receive a diploma according to subsection (c) of this section, the ARD/IEP committee shall determine needed educational services upon the request of the student or parent to resume services, as long as the student meets the age eligibility requirements.

Note: A student identified as eligible for special education services during the twelfth grade year must have a Graduation Plan developed which will require completion of at least one academic year of school before becoming eligible for graduation. Identification and eligibility for special education services at this time does not exempt a student from the state assessment requirements.

All students not graduating under the Recommended Program are required by HISD Board policy to have an exit conference and to sign an ‘Exit From the Recommended Program’ form. Thus for students who will graduate under subsections (c) or (d) the exit conference may take place at the same ARD/IEP meeting in which subsection (c) or (d) is agreed upon, and the required exit form can be completed at the time of that ARD/IEP meeting. Only students who have graduated through the IEP and need to work on transition are eligible for continuation. Those graduating on the regular or foundation diploma are not eligible.

Senate Bill (SB) 673 of 2007, permits a student with disabilities to participate in a graduation ceremony after completing four years of high school, even if the student has not yet completed graduation requirements contained in the student’s IEP. SB673

permits students with disabilities to receive a certificate of attendance at the graduation ceremony and return to school to complete the graduation requirements in the IEP.

The student can participate in only one graduation ceremony. Therefore, the student may choose to complete graduation requirements in the IEP before participating in a graduation ceremony.

General Educational Developmental Test / High School Equivalency Program (HSEP)

TEC §29.087 severely limits the students eligible to participate in a High School Equivalency Program (HSEP). HISD currently does not operate in-school GED programs.

Further information on GED and the High School Equivalency Program is available at:

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/hsep

Evaluating Transcripts for Former Students

- The following chart lists graduation requirements from past years. Former students whose records are digitized and are on file at CISR and who return to a local high school to have a transcript evaluated or a diploma replaced should be referred to the HISD Center for Inactive Student Records (CISR).

YEAR STUDENT ENTERED 9TH GRADE	ACADEMIC CREDITS	PE CREDITS	TOTAL
1971-72 (or prior)	17	2	19
1972-73	17	2.5	19.5
1973-74	17	3	20
1974-75	17*	4*	21
1979-80	18.0	2.5 +.5 Health	21
1983-84	19.0	1.5 +.5 Health	21
1995-96	22.0	1.5 +.5 Health	24
1997-98	22.0	1.5 +.5 Health	24
1998-00	22.0	1.5 +.5 Health	24

* 3 credits are required in PE. The fourth credit may be taken in PE, Driver Training (if student entered the 10th grade in September 1975 or later), or any academic subject.

TEC §7.006 requires that the commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education ensure that records of TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board are coordinated and maintained in standardized compatible formats to permit exchange of information between agencies so that a student's academic performance may be assessed throughout the student's educational career.