

Texas Leadership Charter Academy (TLCA)



Academic Achievement Policies

Texas Leadership

5687 Melrose San Angelo, TX 76901

Revised: August 15, 2019

TLCA will follow The Texas Education Code and The Texas Administration Code with regard to legal requirements for Academic Achievement. This guide is a general overview and not all requirements may be listed in this local policy;

Course Failure and Grade Level Placement

Students who fail a high school course for the year will not receive credit for that course. Students may make up lost credits by enrolling in an accelerated instruction program and provide a record of completion to make up lost course credits. To be classified a sophomore, a student must have at least six credits toward graduation, juniors must have at least twelve credits, and seniors must have at least eighteen credits.

There are no mid-year reclassifications with the exception of fourth year students who have at least twenty-one credits and who are eligible to complete the remainder of necessary graduation credits during the regular school day. A director or principal may identify an extenuating circumstance where there could be a second exception, but must receive approval of superintendent before a student is reclassified.

Graduation Guidelines

Seniors who do not pass all sections of exit-level state assessments after the third administration in the spring will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises and activities. However, students will not be issued a high school diploma until they have met all graduation requirements specified by the state of Texas, which includes the requirement of passing all sections of exit-level state assessments, but does not exclude exception rules currently in place. *SB149 (See graduation exceptions section)*

Students enrolled in TLCA must have been continuously enrolled in the high school for the full two years immediately preceding graduation in order to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian status in their class.

Graduation Exceptions

SB 213 (2019) - Individual Graduation Committees (effective through September 1, 2023)

First enacted with SB 149 (2015), Individual Graduation Committees (IGC) allow student the option to graduate even though they've not passed all of their EOC exams. A student who has failed the EOC assessment graduation requirements for no more than two, out of the number they must take, may receive a Texas high school diploma if the student has qualified to graduate by means of an individual graduation committee (IGC) determination. (Source: TEA State Graduation Requirement page)

Updates on Individual Graduation Committees (as of May 2019)

SB 213 (2019) updates SB 463 (2017), a piece of legislation which updated SB 149. SB 213 now extends the end date of this committee to September 1, 2023.

[Text of SB 463\(opens PDF document\).](#) [Text of SB 213 \(2019\)\(opens PDF document\).](#)

This legislation also allows the inclusion of TAKS students. Processes and procedures for STAAR IGC remain the same. There are currently some pieces of legislation in process for this.

Students will still be given the opportunity to retake any EOC for which a satisfactory performance was not achieved.

SB 149 also allows a student who did not pass the Algebra I and/or English II EOC assessment(s) a second time to use the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment to meet the EOC requirement for the corresponding course. A student must receive a TSI score indicating readiness to enroll in entry-level freshman coursework.

According to SB673, students receiving special education services will receive a certificate of attendance and participate in commencement ceremonies if s/he has completed four years of high school, but has not completed requirements of the IEP related to graduation.

In order to participate in the commencement ceremony, a student must complete all graduation requirements, including those requirements set forth in the SB149 exceptions. Any student not meeting the requirements as set forth above will not be allowed to participate with the class during commencement exercises.

Student diplomas will not be included in the diploma covers handed to them on stage. Behavior of students and parents will be monitored during the ceremony. Poor behavior by a student or his/her audience may result in a delay in receiving the actual diploma certificate.

Award of Credit

The award of credit for a course affirms that a student has satisfactorily met state and local requirements. *19TAC 74.26(a)*

Early Award of Credit

The Charter School may offer courses designated for grades 9-12 in earlier grade levels. Credit will be awarded if the student demonstrates achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course, including demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter, regardless of the time the student received instruction in the course or the grade level at which the proficiency was attained. The academic achievement record shall reflect that students have satisfactorily completed courses at earlier grade levels from grades 9-12 and have been awarded state graduation credits. *19 TAC 74.26(b)*

High School courses taken by students prior to high school where high school credit is awarded will be denoted on the high school academic achievement record (transcript), but will not be calculated into the student's high school GPA.

Partial Award

A student who is able to successfully complete only one semester of a two semester course may be awarded credit proportionately. *19 TAC 74.26(d)* In this circumstance, the student shall be required

to take only the semester in which the failing grade was earned. Provided the two semesters average to at least 70, credit will be awarded for the entire course.

Attendance for Credit

Unless awarded by an attendance committee, or regained according to a plan written by the principal, a student may not be given credit for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. *EC 25.092*

Academic Achievement Record

The Charter School shall use the academic achievement record (Transcript) form designated by the state board. This form shall serve as the academic record for each student and shall be maintained permanently by the Charter School. Any credit earned by a student must be recorded on the academic achievement record regardless of when the credit was earned. Copies of the record will be made available to students transferring to another school. The information may be provided to the transferring student, the new school or both.

EC 28.025(e); 19 TAC 74.14(b)-(c)

Automatic Admission to Higher Education Institutions

According to EC 61.003(3) general academic teaching institutions shall admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate if the applicant:

1. Graduated with a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission;
2. Graduated from a public high school in Texas accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization;
3. Successfully completed the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program, or satisfied ACT's College Readiness benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1500 out of 2400 or the equivalent; and
4. Submitted an application before the institutions application filing deadline. *EC 51.803(a); 19 TAC 5.5(b) *** There are exceptions to the University of Texas. See EC 51.803(a-1)-(a-2)*

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian honors shall be awarded to the graduating student with the highest grade point average (GPA), calculated in accordance with this policy. Salutatorian honors shall be awarded to the graduating student with the second highest GPA. In addition, a student shall have completed either the recommended or the advanced/distinguished Achievement program to be eligible for the positions of valedictorian, salutatorian or any other local graduation honors calculated by GPA.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, to be eligible for this local honor, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled at The TLCA High School for the two complete years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
3. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

Grade Point Calculation

Final calculation for determining class rank, honor graduates, and class valedictorian or salutatorian shall be made at the close of the fifth six- week grading period. The average of the fourth and fifth six weeks grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.

Breaking a Tie

A tie shall be broken by extending the decimal point of the grade point average until a winner can be determined. In the event a tie still remains, the Charter School will use the following in the order listed to determine the highest ranking student.

1. ACT Scores
2. SAT Scores
3. Honors classes, if applicable
4. College hours earned
5. College hours GPA

Early Graduates

A student who qualifies for graduation in fewer than four years shall be eligible for consideration within the top ten percent, but cannot displace a student already ranked in the top ten percent or as the valedictorian or salutatorian. The early graduating student can tie for the spot they would land in ranking, provided it is in the top ten percent and not as valedictorian or salutatorian.

Honor Graduates

To be recognized for Charter School's scholastic honors, a student shall be required to maintain a numerical average of 90 or above for the entire high school program, excluding the last six-week

grading period of the senior year, and complete the recommended or advanced/distinguished achievement program.

Weighted Honors

For the purpose of selecting inductees for the National Honor Society (NHS) and determining class rankings and honor graduates, the following system shall be used:

- Honor graduates and NHS members must be graduating under the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.
- Ten points shall be added to the high school semester average for dual credit courses taken where college credit is awarded (maximum grade of 110).
- Five points will be added to the semester average for students receiving high school credit for Honors or AP/IB classes as approved by the principal (maximum grade of 105).
- Five points will be added to the semester average for students receiving high school credit in a third year of foreign language; provided that credit was previously awarded for the first two years of that same foreign language (maximum grade of 105).
- No other classes will receive additional weight; including those taken by Correspondence or through credit by exam.

The GPA for all students, including those transferring to the Charter School shall be based on this Academic Achievement Policy.

Excluded Courses

The following courses shall not be used in the calculation of GPA:

1. Yearbook,
2. Concert/Marching Band/Choir,
3. Physical Education and Athletics
4. Teacher/Office Aide
5. Driver's Education
6. High School courses taken prior to freshman year
7. Any other "local" credit that might not be listed
8. Correspondence or on-line courses