

Graduation Program – Overview

Foundation High School Program

A new, more flexible graduation program that allows students to pursue their interests will be in place for all students who enter high school, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

The 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
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement

The Foundation requirements (22 credits) include:

English (4 credits) • English I • English II • English III • An advanced English course

Mathematics (3 credits) • Algebra I • Geometry • An advanced math course

Science (3 credits) • Biology • Integrated Physics & Chemistry or an advanced science course
• An advanced science course

Social Studies (3 credits) • World History or World Geography • U.S. History
• U.S. Government (one-half credit) • Economics (one-half credit)

Languages Other Than English (2 credits) • 2 credits in the same language or
• 2 credits from Computer Science I, II, III

Physical Education (1 credit)

Fine Arts (1 credit)

Electives (5 credits)

Speech: Demonstrated proficiency

Endorsements Total credits with endorsements 26

Enhancements

Additionally, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance. The Distinguished Level of Achievement must be earned to be admitted to a Texas public university under the Top 10 percent automatic admission law.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

- Foundation Program requirements
- 4 credits in math including Algebra II
- 4 credits in science
- at least 1 endorsement

Performance Acknowledgments

- dual credit course
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT's Plan, SAT or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam
- earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

*A student entering 9th grade must indicate an endorsement he or she plans to follow. A student may change or add an endorsement at any time.

A student may graduate without earning an endorsement if, after his or her sophomore year, the student's parent signs a form permitting the student to omit the endorsement requirement.

