

Graduation Requirements for the Graduates of 2018 and Beyond

As enacted by the 83rd Texas Legislature and the approval of the State Board of Education, **House Bill 5** (HB5) created the Foundation High School Plan, with Endorsements, Distinguished Achievement Diplomas, and Performance Acknowledgements. The Foundation Plan consists of 22 credits plus an endorsement consisting of 4 elective courses, for a total of 26 credits, the same number of credits students currently on the 4x4 graduation plan must complete.

Foundation Plan consists of 22 state credits:

- 4 English/Language Arts – Three credits must be ELA I, II, III and then an additional English course
- 3 Mathematics – Two credits must be Algebra I, Geometry, and then an additional Math course
- 3 Science – One credit must be Biology, one from either Integrated Physics & Chemistry or Chemistry; and then an additional Science course
- 3 Social Studies – Two credits must be US History, Government/Economics and then either World Geography or World History
- 2 Foreign Languages credits of the same language
- 1 Fine Arts
- 1 Physical Education
- 4 Electives
- one-half credit of Professional Communications (local requirement)
- one-half credit of Health (local requirement)

Each Endorsement consists of an additional 4 credits, for a total of 26 credits, to include Algebra II and an additional Science. The five Endorsement areas are:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Business & Industry
- Public Services
- Arts & Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Distinguished Diploma

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing the curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement, including four credits in science and four credits in mathematics to include Algebra II. A student must earn distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic college admission.

Performance Acknowledgements

A student may earn a performance acknowledgement for outstanding performance in Dual Credit courses, in bilingualism and bi-literacy, on a College Board AP test, on the PSAT, the SAT or the ACT. A student may also earn a performance acknowledgement for earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license. See specifics on page 26-27.

The following pages detail the Foundation Plan and Endorsement options closer.