

GRADUATION PROGRAMS

Passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature, House Bill 5 (HB5) revises the graduation program for a **STUDENT ENTERING GRADE 9 IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR AND ALL SUBSEQUENT YEARS**. The new law replaces the current three high school graduation plans (Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement) with the Foundation Program, the Foundation Program with an Endorsement and the Distinguished Level of Achievement. **HB5 states that the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement is the default high school graduation plan for all students. This plan requires that a student entering grade 9 specify in writing which endorsement he/she will earn.**

DISCIPLINE	FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
ENGLISH	4 Credits: English I, II, III, and one additional English course
MATHEMATICS	3 Credits: Algebra I, Geometry, and one additional math course
SCIENCE	3 Credits: Biology, IPC or an advanced science course, and one additional science course
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 Credits: World Geography or World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government/Economics
HEALTH	.5 Elective Credit *
SPEECH	.5 Elective Credit * (Professional Communications, Teen Leadership I/II, or Debate I)
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	1 Elective Credit * (BIM)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 Credit: Physical Education or state approved alternative (athletics, marching band, etc.)
FINE ARTS	1 Credit: Fine Arts
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH	2 Credits: Spanish, French (both credits in the same language)
ELECTIVES	3 Credits: Electives
TOTAL = 22	
1	FOUNDATION HSP WITHOUT AN ENDORSEMENT <i>(Committee Approval Is Required)</i>
	+ 2 Credits: Elective Credits
TOTAL CREDITS WITHOUT ENDORSEMENT = 24	
2	FOUNDATION HSP WITH AN ENDORSEMENT <i>(The 5 Endorsements are listed in detail below)</i>
	+ 4 CREDITS - A STUDENT MAY EARN AN ENDORSEMENT BY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four credits in mathematics • Four credits in science • Two additional elective credits
STEM	Includes courses directly related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • science, including environmental science • technology, including computer science • engineering (PLTW) • advanced math • robotics
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	Includes courses directly related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • database management • information technology • communications • accounting • finance • marketing • graphic design • architecture • construction • welding • culinary arts and hospitality • automotive technology • agricultural science
PUBLIC SERVICES	Includes courses directly related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health sciences and medical occupation • education and training • military service in the armed forces (to include the Coast Guard and National Guard) • law enforcement
ARTS & HUMANITIES	Includes courses directly related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political science • world languages • cultural studies • English literature • history • fine arts
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES	Allows a student to select courses from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement.
TOTAL CREDITS WITH ENDORSEMENTS = 26	
3	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT <i>(Eligible for College Automatic Admissions)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four credits in math, including credit in Algebra II • four credits in science • completion of curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement
TOTAL CREDITS WITH ENDORSEMENTS = 26	
PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	<p>A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For outstanding performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ in a dual credit course ✓ in bilingualism and bi-literacy ✓ on an AP test or IB exam ✓ on the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT 2. For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

*Montgomery Independent School District Requirement