

§74.11. High School Graduation Requirements.

- (a) To receive a high school diploma, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter must complete the following:
 - (1) in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, requirements of the foundation high school program specified in §74.12 of this title; and
 - (2) testing requirements for graduation as specified in Chapter 101 of this title (relating to Assessment).
- (b) A school district shall clearly indicate the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program, an endorsement, and a performance acknowledgment on the diploma and transcript or academic achievement record (AAR) of a student who satisfies the applicable requirements.
- (c) A student entering Grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter shall enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program specified in §74.12 of this title (relating to Foundation High School Program) and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement specified in §74.13 of this title.
- (d) A student may graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year:
 - (1) the student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
 - (2) the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the agency, allowing the student to graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement.
- (e) 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 Algebra II as one of the four mathematics credits.
- (f) An out-of-state or out-of-country transfer student (including foreign exchange students) or a transfer student from a Texas nonpublic school is eligible to receive a Texas diploma, but must complete all requirements of this section to satisfy state graduation requirements. Any course credit required in this section that is not completed by the student before he or she enrolls in a Texas school district may be satisfied through the provisions of §74.23 of this title (relating to Correspondence Courses and Distance Learning) and §74.24 of this title (relating to Credit by Examination) or by completing the course or courses according to the provisions of §74.26 of this title (relating to Award of Credit).
- (g) Elective credits may be selected from the following:
 - (1) high school courses not required for graduation that are listed in the following chapters of this title:
 - (A) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading);
 - (B) Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics);
 - (C) Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science);
 - (D) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies);
 - (E) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English);
 - (F) Chapter 115 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health Education);

- (G) Chapter 116 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Physical Education);
- (H) Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts);
- (I) Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits);
- (J) Chapter 126 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications);
- (K) Chapter 127 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development); and
- (L) Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education);
- (2) state-approved innovative courses as specified in §74.27 of this title (relating to Innovative Courses and Programs);
- (3) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)--one to four credits; and
- (4) Driver Education--one-half credit.
- (h) College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted as appropriate for required courses. A single College Board advanced placement or International Baccalaureate course may not count toward more than one credit required for graduation. If a College Board advanced placement or International Baccalaureate course is substituted for a required course, that course may not satisfy a requirement for an advanced course. College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may satisfy elective credit requirements.
- (i) Courses offered for dual credit at an institution of higher education that provide advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than, the essential knowledge and skills for the equivalent high school course required for graduation may satisfy graduation requirements.
- (j) A student may not be enrolled in a course that has a required prerequisite unless:
 - (1) the student has successfully completed the prerequisite course(s);
 - (2) the student has demonstrated equivalent knowledge as determined by the school district; or
 - (3) the student was already enrolled in the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school and transferred to a Texas public school prior to successfully completing the course.
- (k) A district may award credit for a course a student completed without meeting the prerequisites if the student completed the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school where there was not a prerequisite.
- (l) Each school district shall annually report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) the names of the locally developed courses, programs, institutions of higher education, and internships in which the district's students have enrolled as authorized by the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1). The TEA shall make available information provided under this subsection to other districts. A district may submit any locally developed course to TEA for approval as an innovative course.

§74.12. Foundation High School Program.

- (a) Credits. A student must earn at least 22 credits to complete the Foundation High School Program.
- (b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.
 - (1) English language arts--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of English I, II, and III. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language

Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.) The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:

- (A) English IV;
- (B) Independent Study in English
- (C) Literary Genres;
- (D) Creative Writing;
- (E) Research and Technical Writing;
- (F) Humanities;
- (G) Public Speaking III;
- (H) Oral Interpretation III;
- (I) Debate III;
- (J) Independent Study in Journalism;
- (K) Advanced Broadcast Journalism III;
- (L) AP English Literature and Composition;
- (M) IB Language Studies A1 Higher Level; and
- (N) after the successful completion of English I, English II, and English III, a locally developed English language arts course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1).

(2) Mathematics--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of Algebra I and Geometry. The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:

- (A) Algebra II
- (B) Precalculus;
- (C) Mathematical Models with Applications;
- (D) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;
- (E) Independent Study in Mathematics;
- (F) Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving;
- (G) AP Statistics;
- (H) AP Calculus AB;
- (I) AP Calculus BC;
- (J) AP Computer Science;
- (K) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;
- (L) IB Mathematics Standard Level;
- (M) IB Mathematics Higher Level;
- (N) IB Further Mathematics Higher Level;
- (O) Engineering Mathematics;
- (P) Statistics and Risk Management;

- (Q) Digital Electronics;
 - (R) Robotics Programming and Design;
 - (S) Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science;
 - (T) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of Algebra II, a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this clause; and
 - (U) after the successful completion of Algebra I and geometry, a locally developed mathematics course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1).
- (3) Science--three credits. One credit must consist of Biology, AP Biology or IB Biology.
- (A) One credit must be selected from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i) Integrated Physics and Chemistry;
 - (ii) Chemistry;
 - (iii) AP Chemistry;
 - (iv) IB Chemistry;
 - (v) Physics;
 - (vi) Principles of Technology;
 - (vii) AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based; and
 - (viii) IB Physics.
 - (B) The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i) Chemistry;
 - (ii) Physics;
 - (iii) Aquatic Science;
 - (iv) Astronomy;
 - (v) Earth and Space Science;
 - (vi) Environmental Systems;
 - (vii) AP Biology;
 - (viii) AP Chemistry;
 - (ix) AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based;
 - (x) AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based;
 - (xi) AP Physics C;
 - (xii) AP Environmental Science;
 - (xiii) IB Biology;
 - (xiv) IB Chemistry;
 - (xv) IB Physics;

- (C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:

 - (i) Drill Team;
 - (ii) Marching Band; and
 - (iii) Cheerleading.
- (D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- (E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.
- (F) A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

 - (i) the student's ARD committee if the student receives special education services under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 29, Subchapter A;
 - (ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, §794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or
 - (iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.
- (7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:

 - (A) Communication Applications; and
 - (B) Professional Communications.
- (8) Fine arts--one credit.

 - (A) The credit may be selected from the following courses:

 - (i) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (ii) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (iii) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (iv) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (v) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;
 - (vi) Digital Art and Animation; and
 - (vii) 3-D Modeling and Animation.
 - (B) In accordance with local district policy, credit may be earned through participation in a community-based fine arts program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in fine arts. Approval may be granted if the fine arts program provides instruction in the essential knowledge and skills identified for a fine arts course as defined by Chapter 117,

Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts – High School).

- (c) Elective courses—four and one-half credits. The credits must be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.11(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements).
- (d) Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Foundation High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.

§74.13. Endorsements.

- (a) A student shall specify in writing an endorsement the student intends to earn upon entering Grade 9.
- (b) 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. This section does not entitle a student to remain enrolled to earn more than 26 credits.
- (c) Credits. A student must earn at least 26 credits to earn an endorsement.
- (d) To earn an endorsement a student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:
 - (1) The curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program as defined by §74.12 of this title.
 - (2) An additional credit in mathematics that may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:
 - (A) Algebra II;
 - (B) Precalculus;
 - (C) Mathematical Models with Applications;
 - (D) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;
 - (E) Independent Study in Mathematics;
 - (F) Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving;
 - (G) AP Statistics;
 - (H) AP Calculus AB;
 - (I) AP Calculus BC;
 - (J) AP Computer Science;
 - (K) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;
 - (L) IB Mathematics Standard Level;
 - (M) IB Mathematics Higher Level;
 - (N) IB Further Mathematics Higher Level;
 - (O) Engineering Mathematics;
 - (P) Statistics and Risk Management;
 - (Q) Digital Electronics;
 - (R) Robotics Programming and Design;
 - (S) Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science; and
 - (T) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of Algebra II, a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the

institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this clause; and

(U) after the successful completion of Algebra I and geometry, a locally developed mathematics course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1).

(3) An additional science credit that may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:

(A) Chemistry;

(B) Physics;

(C) Aquatic Science;

(D) Astronomy;

(E) Earth and Space Science;

(F) Environmental Systems;

(G) AP Biology;

(H) AP Chemistry;

(I) AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based;

(J) AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based;

(K) AP Physics C;

(L) AP Environmental Science;

(M) IB Biology;

(N) IB Chemistry;

(O) IB Physics;

(P) IB Environmental Systems; and

(Q) Veterinary Medical Applications;

(R) Advanced Animal Science;

(S) Advanced Plant and Soil Science;

(T) Anatomy and Physiology;

(U) Medical Microbiology;

(V) Pathophysiology;

(W) Food Science;

(X) Forensic Science;

(Y) Advanced Biotechnology;

(Z) Principles of Technology;

(AA) Scientific Research and Design;

(BB) Engineering Design and Problem Solving;

(CC) Principles of Engineering;

(DD) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of physics, a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution

would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this clause;

- (EE) a locally developed science course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1); and
- (FF) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(c-3), a student pursuing an arts and humanities endorsement who has the written permission of the student's parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student may substitute a course selected from:
 - (i) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts);
 - (ii) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies) or Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits);
 - (iii) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English); or
 - (iv) Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts).
- (GG) Credit may not be earned for both Physics and Principles of Technology to satisfy science credit requirements.
- (4) Two additional elective credits that may be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.11(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements).
- (e) A student may earn any of the following endorsements:
 - (1) STEM. A student may earn a STEM endorsement by completing the requirements specified in §74.13(d) including Algebra II, chemistry, and physics and:
 - (A) a coherent sequence of four courses in career and technical education (CTE) that includes at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education) or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following CTE career clusters:
 - (i) health science as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter H of this title; or
 - (ii) science, technology, engineering and mathematics as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter O of this title; or
 - (B) a coherent sequence of four courses in computer science by selecting courses from Chapter 126 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications); or
 - (C) four courses in mathematics by successfully completing Algebra II and three additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite by selecting courses from Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics); or
 - (D) four courses in science by successfully completing physics and three additional science courses by selecting courses from Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science).
 - (2) Business and Industry. A student may earn a business and industry endorsement by completing the requirements specified in §74.13(d) including Algebra II and:

- (A) a coherent sequence of four courses in career and technical education (CTE) that includes at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education) or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following CTE career clusters:
- (i) agriculture, food, and natural resources as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter A of this title; or
 - (ii) architecture and construction as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter B of this title; or
 - (iii) arts, audio/visual technology, and communications as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter C of this title; or
 - (iv) business management and administration as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter D of this title; or
 - (v) finance as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter F of this title; or
 - (vi) hospitality and tourism as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter I of this title; or
 - (vii) information technology as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter K of this title; or
 - (viii) manufacturing as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter M of this title; or
 - (ix) marketing as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter N of this title; or
 - (x) transportation, distribution, and logistics as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter P of this title; or
- (B) four English elective courses by selecting courses from Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts) to include three levels in one of the following areas:
- (i) advanced broadcast journalism; or
 - (ii) newspaper; or
 - (iii) public speaking.
- (3) Public Services. A student may earn a public services endorsement by completing the requirements specified in §74.13(d) including Algebra II and a coherent sequence of four courses in career and technical education (CTE) that includes at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education) or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following CTE career clusters:
- (A) education and training as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter E of this title; or
 - (B) government and public administration as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter G of this title; or
 - (C) human services as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter J of this title; or
 - (D) law, public safety, corrections, and securities as defined by Chapter 130, Subchapter L of this title.
- (4) Arts and Humanities. A student may earn an arts and humanities endorsement by completing the requirements specified in §74.13(d) including Algebra II, English IV, world history and world geography, and:
- (A) four College Board advanced placement or International Baccalaureate social studies courses by selecting courses from Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential

Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies) or Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits); or

- (B) four levels of the same language in a language other than English; or
 - (C) four levels of American sign language; or
 - (D) a coherent sequence of four courses in art by selecting courses from Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts) or innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education; or
 - (E) a coherent sequence of four courses in dance by selecting courses from Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts) or innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education; or
 - (F) a coherent sequence of four courses in music by selecting courses from Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts) or innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education; or
 - (G) a coherent sequence of four courses in theatre by selecting courses from Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts) or innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education.
- (5) Multidisciplinary Studies. A student may earn a multidisciplinary studies endorsement by completing the requirements specified in §74.13(d) including Algebra II and:
- (A) four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence; or
 - (B) four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics; or
 - (C) four advanced placement or International Baccalaureate courses to include one credit in each of the four foundation subjects.
- (f) A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under §74.12(b) including an elective requirement.

§74.14. Performance Acknowledgments.

- (a) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:
 - (1) at least 12 hours of college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit as part of the Texas core curriculum, and advanced technical credit courses, including locally articulated courses, with a grade of the equivalent of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0; or
 - (2) an associate degree while in high school.
- (b) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy.
 - (1) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by demonstrating proficiency in two or more languages by:
 - (A) completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; and
 - (B) satisfying one of the following:

