Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter A. Required Curriculum

§74.1. Essential Knowledge and Skills.

(a) A school district that offers kindergarten through Grade 12 must offer the following as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;
(B) mathematics;
(C) science; and
(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United States and world history, government, geography, and economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than English;
(B) health, with emphasis on the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;
(C) physical education;
(D) fine arts;
(E) career and technical education;
(F) technology applications; and
(G) religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature.

(b) A school district must provide instruction in the essential knowledge and skills of the appropriate grade levels in the foundation and enrichment curriculum as specified in paragraphs (1)-(13) of this subsection. A school district may add elements at its discretion but must not delete or omit instruction in the foundation and enrichment curriculum specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(1) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading);
(2) Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics);
(3) Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science);
(4) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies);
(5) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English);
(6) Chapter 115 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health Education);
(7) Chapter 116 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Physical Education);
(8) Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts);
Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits);

Chapter 126 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications);

Chapter 127 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development);

Chapter 128 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Spanish Language Arts and English as a Second Language); and

Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education).

§74.3. Description of a Required Secondary Curriculum.

(a) Middle Grades 6-8.

(1) A school district that offers Grades 6-8 must provide instruction in the required curriculum as specified in §74.1 of this title (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills). The district must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, health, physical education, technology applications, and to the extent possible, languages other than English. The school district may provide instruction in a variety of arrangements and settings, including mixed-age programs designed to permit flexible learning arrangements for developmentally appropriate instruction for all student populations to support student attainment of course and grade level standards.

(2) The school district must ensure that, beginning with students who enter Grade 6 in the 2010-2011 school year, each student completes one Texas essential knowledge and skills-based fine arts course in Grade 6, Grade 7, or Grade 8.

(b) Secondary Grades 9-12.

(1) A school district that offers Grades 9-12 must provide instruction in the required curriculum as specified in §74.1 of this title. The district must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn the subjects in the required curriculum. The school district may provide instruction in a variety of arrangements and settings, including mixed-age programs designed to permit flexible learning arrangements for developmentally appropriate instruction for all student populations to support student attainment of course and grade level standards.

(2) The school district must offer the courses listed in this paragraph and maintain evidence that students have the opportunity to take these courses:

(A) English language arts--English I, II, III, and IV and at least one additional advanced English course;

(B) mathematics--Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus, and Mathematical Models with Applications;

(C) science--Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and at least two additional science courses selected from Aquatic Science, Astronomy, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Systems, Advanced Animal Science, Advanced Biotechnology, Advanced Plant and Soil Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Engineering Design and Problem Solving, Food Science, Forensic Science, Medical Microbiology, Pathophysiology, and Scientific Research and Design. The requirement to offer two additional courses may be reduced to one by the commissioner of education upon application of a school district with a total high school enrollment of less than 500 students. Science courses shall include at least 40% hands-on laboratory investigations and field work using appropriate scientific inquiry;
(D) social studies--United States History Studies Since 1877, World History Studies, United States Government, World Geography Studies, and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits;

(E) physical education--at least two courses selected from Foundations of Personal Fitness, Adventure/Outdoor Education, Aerobic Activities, or Team or Individual Sports;

(F) fine arts--courses selected from at least two of the four fine arts areas (art, music, theatre, and dance)--Art I, II, III, IV; Music I, II, III, IV; Theatre I, II, III, IV; or Dance I, II, III, IV;

(G) career and technical education--coherent sequences of courses selected from at least three of the following sixteen career clusters:
   (i) Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources;
   (ii) Architecture and Construction;
   (iii) Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications;
   (iv) Business Management and Administration;
   (v) Education and Training;
   (vi) Finance;
   (vii) Government and Public Administration;
   (viii) Health Science;
   (ix) Hospitality and Tourism;
   (x) Human Services;
   (xi) Information Technology;
   (xii) Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security;
   (xiii) Manufacturing;
   (xiv) Marketing;
   (xv) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; and
   (xvi) Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics;

(H) languages other than English--Levels I, II, and III or higher of the same language; and


(3) Districts may offer additional courses from the complete list of courses approved by the State Board of Education to satisfy graduation requirements as referenced in this chapter.

(4) The school district must provide each student the opportunity to participate in all courses listed in subsection (b)(2) of this section. The district must provide students the opportunity each year to select courses in which they intend to participate from a list that includes all courses required to be offered in subsection (b)(2) of this section. If the school district will not offer the required courses
every year, but intends to offer particular courses only every other year, it must notify all enrolled
students of that fact. A school district must teach a course that is specifically required for high
school graduation at least once in any two consecutive school years. For a subject that has an end-
of-course assessment, the district must either teach the course every year or employ options
described in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Other Provisions) to enable students to earn
credit for the course and must maintain evidence that it is employing those options.

(5) For students entering Grade 9 beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, districts must ensure that
one or more courses offered in the required curriculum for the recommended and advanced high
school programs include a research writing component.

(c) Courses in the foundation and enrichment curriculum in Grades 6-12 must be provided in a manner that
allows all grade promotion and high school graduation requirements to be met in a timely manner. Nothing
in this chapter shall be construed to require a district to offer a specific course in the foundation and
enrichment curriculum except as required by this subsection.

§74.5. Academic Achievement Record (Transcript) and High School Diploma.

(a) The commissioner of education shall develop and distribute to each school district and institution of higher
education in the state guidelines for a common academic achievement record and coding system for courses
and instructions for recording information on the academic achievement record. Each school district must
use the coding system provided by the commissioner.

(b) Following guidelines developed by the commissioner, each school district must use an academic
achievement record (transcript) form that includes the following:

(1) student demographics;
(2) school data;
(3) student data; and
(4) the record of courses and credits earned.

(c) The academic achievement record shall serve as the academic record for each student and must be
maintained permanently by the district. Each district must ensure that copies of the record are made
available for a student transferring from one district to another. To ensure appropriate placement of a
transfer student, a district must respond promptly to each request for student records from a receiving
school district.

(d) Any credit earned by a student must be recorded on the academic achievement record, regardless of when
the credit was earned.

(e) A student who completes high school graduation requirements shall have attached to the academic
achievement record a seal approved by the SBOE.

(f) A student who completes the requirements for an endorsement shall have the endorsement clearly indicated
on the academic achievement record and on the diploma.

(g) A student who earns a performance acknowledgment shall have the performance acknowledgment clearly
indicated on the academic achievement record and on the diploma.

(h) A student who earns the distinguished level of achievement shall have the distinguished level of
achievement clearly indicated on the academic achievement record and on the diploma.

(i) A student who completes all graduation requirements except for required end-of-course assessment
instruments may be issued a certificate of coursework completion. The academic achievement record will
include a notation of the date such a certificate was issued to the student.