

The State Board of Education (SBOE) proposes amendments to §74.12 and §74.13, concerning graduation requirements. The proposed amendments would reflect changes to a career and technical education (CTE) course title to align with recently adopted CTE Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and update cross references.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION: At the April 2024 SBOE meeting, the SBOE approved for second reading and final adoption TEKS for a set of CTE courses in agriculture; aviation maintenance; and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with an effective date of August 1, 2025. The proposed amendments would update the list of courses that can satisfy a science graduation requirement to reflect a CTE course that was retitled Physics for Engineering (formerly titled Principles of Technology) as a result of the 2024 CTE TEKS review.

The proposed amendments would also update cross references to certain subchapters that are being reorganized.

The SBOE approved the proposed amendments for first reading and filing authorization at its January 31, 2025 meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: Monica Martinez, associate commissioner for standards and programs, has determined that for the first five years the proposal is in effect, there are no additional costs to state or local government, including school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, required to comply with the proposal.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT: The proposal has no effect on local economy; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code, §2001.022.

SMALL BUSINESS, MICROBUSINESS, AND RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT: The proposal has no direct adverse economic impact for small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural communities; therefore, no regulatory flexibility analysis specified in Texas Government Code, §2006.002, is required.

COST INCREASE TO REGULATED PERSONS: The proposal does not impose a cost on regulated persons, another state agency, a special district, or a local government and, therefore, is not subject to Texas Government Code, §2001.0045.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT: The proposal does not impose a burden on private real property and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, §2007.043.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT: Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff prepared a Government Growth Impact Statement assessment for this proposed rulemaking. During the first five years the proposed rulemaking would be in effect, it would not create or eliminate a government program; would not require the creation of new employee positions or elimination of existing employee positions; would not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency; would not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency; would not create a new regulation; would not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation; would not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to its applicability; and would not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST TO PERSONS: Ms. Martinez has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of enforcing the proposal would be to clarify the rules by updating out-of-date language. There is no anticipated economic cost to persons who are required to comply with the proposal.

DATA AND REPORTING IMPACT: The proposal would have no data or reporting impact.

PRINCIPAL AND CLASSROOM TEACHER PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS: TEA has determined that the proposal would not require a written report or other paperwork to be completed by a principal or classroom teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public comment period on the proposal begins February 28, 2025, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025. The SBOE will take registered oral and written comments on the proposal at the appropriate committee meeting in April 2025 in accordance with the SBOE board operating policies and procedures.

A request for a public hearing on the proposal submitted under the Administrative Procedure Act must be received by the commissioner of education not more than 14 calendar days after notice of the proposal has been published in the *Texas Register* on February 28, 2025.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The amendments are proposed under Texas Education Code (TEC), §7.102(c)(4), which requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to establish curriculum and graduation requirements; TEC, §28.025(a), which requires the SBOE to determine by rule the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program that are consistent with the required curriculum and requires the SBOE to designate specific courses that are required for the foundation high school program; TEC, §28.025(b-2)(2), which requires the SBOE to allow a student by rule to comply with the curriculum requirements for the third and fourth mathematics credits under TEC, §28.025(b-1)(2), or the third and fourth science credits under TEC, §28.025(b-1)(3), by successfully completing a career and technical education course designated by the SBOE as containing substantially similar and rigorous content; and TEC, §28.025(c-1), which requires the SBOE to adopt rules regarding earning an endorsement.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The amendments implement Texas Education Code, §7.102(c)(4) and §28.025(a), (b-2)(2), and (c-1).

<rule>

§74.12. Foundation High School Program.

- (a) (No change.)
- (b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.
 - (1)-(2) (No change.)
 - (3) Science--three credits. One credit must consist of Biology or a comparable AP or IB biology course.
 - (A) One credit must be selected from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i) Integrated Physics and Chemistry;
 - (ii) Chemistry;
 - (iii) Physics;
 - (iv) Physics for Engineering [~~Principles of Technology~~]; and
 - (v) a comparable AP or IB chemistry or physics course that does not count toward another credit required for graduation.
 - (B) The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i)-(xvii)(No change.)
 - (xviii) Physics for Engineering [~~Principles of Technology~~];
 - (xix)-(xxiv) (No change.)
 - (C) Credit may not be earned for both physics and Physics for Engineering [~~Principles of Technology~~] to satisfy science credit requirements.
 - (4)-(7) (No change.)
- (c)-(d) (No change.)

§74.13. Endorsements.

- (a)-(d) (No change.)

- (e) To earn an endorsement a student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.
- (1)-(5) (No change.)
- (6) An additional credit in science that may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:
- (A)-(Q) (No change.)
- (R) Physics for Engineering [Principles of Technology] ;
- (S)-(X) (No change.)
- (Y) credit may not be earned for both physics and Physics for Engineering [Principles of Technology] to satisfy science credit requirements.
- (Z) (No change.)
- (7) (No change.)
- (f) A student may earn any of the following endorsements.
- (1) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Students who entered high school prior to the 2022-2023 school year may earn a STEM endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section, including Algebra II, chemistry, and physics or Physics for Engineering [Principles of Technology] and:
- (A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in career and technical education (CTE) that consists of 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);~~] Chapter 127 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development and Career and Technical Education) [~~]~~ or CTE innovative courses. The final course in the sequence must be selected from Chapter 127, Subchapter O, of this title (relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as it existed prior to August 1, 2025, or Career Preparation I or II (Career Preparation General or Career Preparation for Programs of Study) and Project-Based Research (Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone) in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to High School), if the course addresses a STEM-related field;
- (B)-(E) (No change.)
- (2) Business and industry. Students who entered high school prior to the 2022-2023 school year may earn a business and industry endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:
- (A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of 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;~~] Chapter 127 of this title [~~]~~ or CTE innovative courses. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following:
- (i) Chapter 127, Subchapter C, of this title (related to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources);
- (ii) Chapter 127, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Architecture and Construction);
- (iii) Chapter 127, Subchapter E, of this title (relating to Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications);
- ~~(ii) Chapter 130, Subchapter A, of this title (relating to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources);~~ ;

- ~~[(iii) Chapter 130, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Architecture and Construction)];~~
- ~~[(iv) Chapter 130, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications)];~~
- (iv) ~~[(v)]~~ Chapter 127, Subchapter F, of this title (relating to Business, Marketing, and Finance);
- ~~(v) Chapter 127, Subchapter H, of this title (relating to Energy);~~
- ~~[(vi) Chapter 130, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Business Management and Administration)];~~
- ~~[(vii) Chapter 130, Subchapter F, of this title (relating to Finance)];~~
- (vi) ~~[(viii)]~~ Chapter 127, Subchapter K [~~F~~], of this title (relating to Hospitality and Tourism);
- ~~(vii) Chapter 127, Subchapter M, of this title (relating to Information Technology);~~
- ~~(viii) Chapter 127, Subchapter O, of this title (relating to Manufacturing);~~
- ~~[(ix) Chapter 130, Subchapter K, of this title (relating to Information Technology)];~~
- ~~[(x) Chapter 130, Subchapter M, of this title (relating to Manufacturing)];~~
- ~~[(xi) Chapter 130, Subchapter N, of this title (relating to Marketing)];~~
- (ix) ~~[(xii)]~~ Chapter 127, Subchapter P, of this title (relating to Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics); or
- ~~[(xiii) Chapter 130, Subchapter P, of this title (relating to Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics)];~~
- ~~[(xiv) Chapter 130, Subchapter Q, of this title (relating to Energy)]; or~~
- (x) ~~[(xv)]~~ Career Preparation I or II (Career Preparation General or Career Preparation for Programs of Study) and Project-Based Research (Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone) in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title if the course addresses a career from a field listed in clauses (i)-(ix) [~~(i)-(xiv)]~~ of this subparagraph;

(B)-(D) (No change.)

- (3) Public services. Students who entered high school prior to the 2022-2023 school year may earn a public services endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:

- (A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of 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,]~~ Chapter 127 of this title [~~3~~] or CTE innovative courses. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following:
- (i) Chapter 127, Subchapter G, of this title (relating to Education and Training);
 - (ii) Chapter 127, Subchapter J [~~I~~], of this title (relating to Health Science);
 - (iii) Chapter 127 [~~130~~], Subchapter L [~~J~~], of this title (relating to Human Services);
 - (iv) Chapter 127, Subchapter N [~~M~~], of this title (relating to Law and Public Service); or
 - (v) Career Preparation I or II (Career Preparation General or Career Preparation for Programs of Study) and Project-Based Research (Career and Technical Education Project-Based Capstone) in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title if

the course addresses a field from a cluster listed in clauses ~~(i)-(iv)~~ ~~[(i)-(v)]~~ of this subparagraph;

(B)-(C) (No change.)

(4)-(5) (No change.)

(6) STEM. Students who entered high school in the 2022-2023 school year or later may earn a STEM endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section, including Algebra II, chemistry, and physics or Physics for Engineering [~~Principles of Technology~~] and:

(A)-(D) (No change.)

(7)-(8) (No change.)

(g) (No change.)