HIGHER EDUCATION COUNSELING

Each counselor at an elementary, middle, or junior high school shall advise students and their parents or guardians regarding the importance of higher education, coursework designed to prepare students for higher education, and financial aid availability and requirements.

During the first school year a student is enrolled in high school, and again during a student's senior year, a counselor shall provide information about higher education to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must cover:

1. The importance of higher education;
2. The advantages of completing the recommended or advanced high school program;
3. The disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma;
4. Financial aid eligibility;
5. Instruction on how to apply for federal financial aid;
6. The center for financial aid information established under Education Code 61.0776;
7. The automatic admission of certain students to general academic teaching institutions as provided by Education Code 51.803;
8. The eligibility and academic performance requirements for the TEXAS Grant; and
9. The availability of programs in the District under which a student may earn college credit, including advanced placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs.

AUTOMATIC ADMISSION

At the beginning of grades 10 and 11, a certified counselor shall explain the requirements of automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution to each student who has a grade point average in the top 25 percent of the student's high school class. [See EIC]

Education Code 33.007; 19 TAC 61.1071

NOTICE OF GRANT PROGRAMS

In a manner that assists the District in implementing the District improvement plan, the District shall notify students in middle school, junior high school, and high school and those students' teachers, counselors, and parents of:

1. The TEXAS Grant and the Teach for Texas Grant programs;
2. The eligibility requirements of each program;
3. The need for students to make informed curriculum choices to be prepared for success beyond high school; and
4. Sources of information on higher education admissions and financial aid.

NOTATION ON TRANSCRIPT OR DIPLOMA

The District shall ensure that each student's official transcript or diploma indicates whether the student has completed or is on schedule to complete:

1. The recommended or advanced high school curriculum; or
2. For a district that is covered by Education Code 56.304(f)(1) (unavailability of courses), the required portion of the recommended or advanced high school curriculum offered at the district's high school.

The District must include this information on the student's transcript not later than the end of the student's junior year.

Education Code 56.308