

**Local Graduation
Requirements**

Courses

To graduate, a student must complete the courses required by the District, including a 0.5 credit of health or an approved health substitute, in addition to those mandated by the state.

Higher Education
Applications

To graduate, a student shall also be required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TAFSA) as well as the ApplyTexas application as part of the District's graduation requirements.

Opting Out

A student shall be exempt from the District's graduation requirement regarding completion of the FAFSA or TAFSA and the ApplyTexas application by submitting the District's opt out form in accordance with administrative regulations.

Foundation Program

A student shall enroll in courses specified by the District to complete the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program. The foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement shall be the default graduation plan for all students.

A student may graduate under the foundation program without earning the distinguished level of achievement if:

1. The student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student are advised by the school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school under the distinguished level of achievement; 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 provided by the District and signed by the principal or administrative designee, allowing the student to graduate with an endorsement without earning the distinguished level of achievement.

The courses that satisfy District requirements under the foundation program, including courses for the distinguished level of achievement and courses for endorsements offered by the District, shall be listed in appropriate District publications.

Foundation
Program Without an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the 22 mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program without an endorsement. Graduation under the foundation program without an endorsement shall be permitted only as authorized under state law and rules.

Foundation
Program With an
Endorsement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the 26 mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with an endorsement.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

Foundation
Program With the
Distinguished Level
of Achievement

The District requires no additional credits beyond the 26 mandated by the state to graduate under the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

**No Fine Arts
Substitutions**

The District shall not award state graduation credit in fine arts for participation in a community-based fine arts program.

**Physical Education
Substitutions**

To the extent permitted by state rules, the District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for participation in approved activities and elective courses.

Activities and
Courses

Private or
Commercial
Programs

The District shall award state graduation credit in physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the commissioner of education. [See also EHAC]