

HIGH SCHOOL  
PERSONAL  
GRADUATION PLAN

Beginning in the 2014–15 school year, high school principal shall designate a school counselor or administrator to review personal graduation plan (PGP) options with each student entering grade 9 together with the student's parent or guardian. The PGP review must include the options for the Distinguished Level of Achievement and the endorsements. Before the conclusion of the school year, the student and the student's parent or guardian must confirm and sign a PGP for the student. The plan may be revised according to the student's interest and the availability of particular programming at the campus. Each year, the campus and the student shall refer to the plan while developing the student's course schedule. The plan and the course selection sheet shall be kept on file by the school counselor or administrator.

A high school PGP must:

1. Identify a course of study that promotes:
  - a. College or workforce readiness; and
  - b. Career placement and advancement.
2. Facilitate the student's transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PERSONAL  
GRADUATION PLAN

A middle school principal shall designate a guidance counselor, teacher, or other appropriate individual to develop and administer a PGP for students enrolled in grades 6–8 who:

1. Failed a State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam; or
2. Is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade 9 as determined by the District.

A PGP must:

1. Identify educational goals for the student;
2. Include diagnostic information, appropriate monitoring and intervention, and other evaluation strategies;
3. Include an intensive instruction program described in Education Code 28.0213 [see EHBC and EHBAB];
4. Address participation of the student's parent or guardian, including consideration of the parent's or guardian's educational expectations for the student; and
5. Provide innovative methods to promote the student's advancement, including flexible scheduling, alternative learning

environments, online instruction, and other interventions that are proven to accelerate the learning process and have been scientifically validated to improve learning and cognitive ability.

DIPLOMA AND  
ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT  
RECORD

All graduates, including special education students, shall be awarded the same type of diploma. The academic achievement record (transcript) shall include the individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed. Also, the appropriate seal representing the student's academic program shall be affixed to the academic achievement record.

GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements for a particular student shall be those in effect when the student first enters grade 9 or as otherwise adopted by the Board. Students may graduate under the programs listed below. Details regarding the number of credits and specific courses for each of the programs are found in EIF(EXHIBIT).

Upon reaching the age of 26, a former student who attended District schools during grade 12 but did not graduate under District requirements will be eligible to graduate under the minimum state requirements in effect at his or her grade 9 entry, provided Houston ISD was the last district of enrollment.

All students entering grade 9 prior to the 2014–15 school year shall be automatically enrolled in the Recommended High School Program, and parental approval shall be required to leave the program. All students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter shall be automatically enrolled in the distinguished level of achievement plan in the foundation high school program, and parental approval shall be required to leave the plan to graduate under the 22-credit Texas Education Agency (TEA) foundation high school program or the 22-credit HISD foundation high school program.

The following graduation programs are available for students entering grade 9 prior to the 2012–13 school year:

1. The Texas Minimum High School Program (requires principal approval based on extenuating circumstances);
2. District Core Program (Regular High School Program);
3. District Advanced Program (Recommended High School Program); and
4. Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.

The following graduation programs are available for students entering grade 9 in the 2012–13 through 2013–14 school years:

1. The Texas Minimum High School Program;
2. The Recommended High School Program; and
3. The Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program (Advanced High School Program).

The foundation high school program is required for students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter.

A seal on each student's transcript shall identify the program under which the student graduated. For specific course and other requirements of each program, see EIF(LEGAL) and the *Secondary School Guidelines* for the current year. [See also EI(LEGAL) and (LOCAL) and FMH(LOCAL)]

SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

A student receiving special education services shall be eligible to graduate upon completion of the requirements specified in his or her individualized education program (IEP) as determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee. [See options for graduation under the Special Education Program in the *School Guidelines* for the current year]

The secondary program of a student receiving special education services shall terminate either with graduation or when the student no longer meets the age requirement. When a student graduates with a regular diploma, or when the student no longer meets the age eligibility for FAPE, the District must provide the child with a summary of the child's academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child's postsecondary goals. [See 300.305(e) (3) – IDEIA IDEA]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
SUBSTITUTIONS

CLASSIFICATION FOR  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students must satisfy District graduation requirements for physical education. The District shall classify students for physical education on the basis of health into one of the following categories:

1. Unrestricted – not limited in activities.
2. Restricted – may exclude the more vigorous activities. The two types of restricted classification are:
  - a. Permanent — A member of the healing arts licensed to practice in the State of Texas shall provide written documentation to the school as to the nature of the impairment and the expectations for physical activity for the student.
  - b. Temporary — A student may be restricted from certain physical activity of the physical education class. A member of the healing arts licensed to practice in the

State of Texas shall provide written documentation to the school as to the nature of the impairment and the expectations for physical activity for the student.

During recovery time, the student shall continue to learn the concepts of the lessons but shall participate to the level indicated by the licensed health-care professional.

3. Adapted and remedial — Specific activities prescribed or prohibited for students so classified as directed by a member of the healing arts licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

OLYMPIC-CALIBER  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY  
PROGRAMS

The District has chosen to award state credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon program approval by the Board and participation approval by the Health and Physical Education Department.

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 state graduation elective credits for reading in all graduation plans.

TRANSFER OF  
CREDITS DURING  
SENIOR YEAR FOR  
STUDENTS FROM OUT  
OF DISTRICT

Students leaving the District in the last semester of their senior year shall be allowed to transfer credits back from any accredited high school where they complete graduation requirements and receive a high school diploma from the District.

IN-DISTRICT  
TRANSFER OF  
STUDENTS DURING  
SPRING OF SENIOR  
YEAR

In order to receive a diploma from a District high school, a senior student transferring from another District school:

1. Shall have enrolled in that high school, at the latest, during the first 15 days of the last semester of the senior year;
2. Must have earned at least 2 credits from the District high school; and
3. Must have completed District graduation requirements, including satisfactory performance on the state-mandated assessment.

A student who does not meet these qualifications may have his or her complete coursework transferred back to the previous District school and then receive a diploma from the school he or she previously attended.

To be eligible for honors based on academic achievement, a transfer senior student must earn his or her last 5 credits at the school in which the awards are presented, at least 2 credits of which must be completed before class ranking time.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective as of the adoption date, April 11, 2014.