

Legislature revamps graduation requirements

Under the new accountability system, recently passed by legislators during the 81st Legislative Session, school districts are required to enforce new graduation requirements for students enrolled in Texas public schools beginning the 2009-2010 calendar year.

HB 3 was passed by the Legislature during the last part of the session on June 1 instituting numerous changes, including major alterations in graduation requirements. In late July, school districts were notified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that the new mandate must be implemented for the 2009-2010 school year in lieu of a phase-in, not giving school districts ample time to execute the order with efficiency.

The change, impacting CFISD students in grades 7-12, includes the removal of one health credit, one technology applications credit and one physical education credit as prerequisites to graduate from high school. Although the communication applications course is still required, the State Board of Education may also consider eliminating the credit.

The drastic changes and the late notice by TEA have unloaded unnecessary consequences on CFISD, especially since most teachers have already been hired for the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, modifying staffing/master schedules at this late in time would cause a great deal of confusion among district students, parents and employees.

"We cannot accommodate the required schedule changes and staffing/master schedule issues that would be necessary to provide our students an opportunity to create a new schedule for the 2009-10 school year," said Dr. David Anthony, superintendent of schools. "In order to accommodate all schedule changes, we would have to terminate teachers, find certified teachers for the appropriate courses and re-create our master schedule. That is not a possibility."

With the unexpected changes, the district has taken immediate action to make adjustments in the least disruptive way possible. Since the new law allows local school districts to establish local graduation requirements beyond those of the state, CFISD will require 2009-2010 juniors and seniors to graduate under the former graduation requirements. In order to receive a high school diploma, this year's juniors and seniors

NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Under HB 3, students are no longer required to take health, technology applications and one semester of physical education (two semesters still required) in order to graduate.

However, since the new law allows local school districts to establish local graduation requirements beyond those of the state, CFISD will require 2009-2010 juniors and seniors to graduate under the former graduation requirements, which include taking those courses eliminated in HB 3.

must complete credits for health, technology applications and physical education under the former graduation requirements plan.

Students in grades 7-10, already enrolled in courses that were eliminated under the new plan, will be expected to keep the course as an elective.

"We do not have the capacity to change all of their schedules to a different course, one of their choice, at this late date," Dr. Anthony said. "We are very aware of the GPA/class rank implications, and will work throughout the school year to develop a plan for making it equitable for all students who are currently in high school. That will not be an issue for those students who are in middle school during the 2009-10 school year."

Parents of summer school students in grades 8-10 were sent a letter on July 14 explaining the change in graduation requirements. Students making up credits for health, technology applications or physical education will receive a full refund since those courses are no longer mandatory. (Please note that two semesters of physical education are still required instead of three.)

As the state continues to formulate changes in the school accountability system, CFISD will work diligently in conveying the most up-to-date information to the community via the district website at www.cfisd.net.

Details regarding additional changes in the state accountability system are posted on the TEA website at www.tea.state.tx.us.

2009

Summer Reading Lists

Available for All Grade Levels

www.cfisd.net

Bayou City Fencing Academy



**The Met Life
Family Center
Located in 1960 Area**

Classes

**BAYOU CITY FENCING ACADEMY
832-338-9808
fencingacademy.com**

apac

Abbott's Performing Arts Center



NEW CLASSES FORMING NOW!

- Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Drill Team
- Pre-school Thru Adult Classes
- Call 281-550-1234 for information and registration

The only dance performing arts center in Northwest Houston with both Broadway and Professional credits. Since 1988

8475 K, Hwy 6 North @ West Rd.
In the Sears Shopping Center
281-550-1234
apacdance@comcast.net
www.apacdance.com



FROZEN CAFE
GELATO · YOGURT · COFFEE
(281) 970-0009



BUY A LARGE CUP
OF GELATO,
GET ONE
FREE
ANY CUP SIZE
One coupon per customer/party.
With Coupon only.
Expires 8/31/2009

12149 FM 1960 Rd. W. STE. E (located just north of Eldridge & FM 1960)