

## Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2018 and Beyond

Students who enter the ninth grade in the fall of 2014 and thereafter must enroll in courses necessary to complete the Foundation High School Program with an endorsement. Students may also earn Distinguished Level of Achievement by including and successfully completing Algebra II in their selected coursework. Students should study the table below which outlines requirements for 22 credits for the Foundation High School Program plus the 4 additional credits required for an endorsement. Counselors at each high school will furnish details associated with endorsements and other information necessary for student to complete registration.

Course	Foundation	+Endorsement	Notes
English	4		
PACE (Personal, Academic, & Career Exploration) or PACE Plus	1/2  or  1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-half credit is required in grade 9.</li> <li>One credit is required for 9th-grade students who did not pass all 8th grade core academic classes (language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies) and who have not met the state standards on any 8th grade STAAR assessment.</li> <li><i>The state required speech TEKS are embedded in PACE and PACE Plus.</i></li> </ul>
Mathematics	3 Algebra I, Geometry, <u>and</u> an additional math course	+ 1 additional advanced math course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra II must be taken to earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: State graduation requirements do not mandate that a student complete Algebra II to graduate under the Foundation High School Program. If a student does not complete an Algebra II course, the student will not be eligible for automatic college admission or certain financial aid including the TEXAS Grant Program and the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program.</p>
Science	3 Biology and IPC, Chemistry, <u>or</u> Physics, <u>and</u> an additional science course	+1 additional advanced science course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology is required for all students.</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 World Geography <u>or</u> World History, U.S. History, Government (1/2) & Economics (1/2)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may substitute AP Human Geography for World Geography.</li> <li>Students <u>may not</u> substitute the Personal Financial Literacy Elective for Personal Financial Literacy Plus Economics.</li> </ul>
Languages other than English (Foreign Language)	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students take and earn two credits in the same language.</li> </ul>
Health	1/2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health may be taken in any grade or through correspondence, summer school, or credit-by-exam.</li> <li>Principles of Health Science satisfies the Health requirement.</li> <li>CPR - The State required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is instructed in Health.</li> </ul>

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Physical Education	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning in the fall of 2022, students may earn a maximum of two (2) credits in PE toward graduation.</li> <li>• Students may meet the PE requirement through after school participation in the fall semester of marching band and cheerleading, and both semesters of drill team. Students may also meet the PE requirement if they participate in a district-approved Olympic caliber off-campus training program, athletics or AFROTC.</li> <li>• Students may earn up to four (4) credits of PE through off-campus PE, athletics or AFROTC.</li> <li>• PE credit may be earned through approved correspondence courses.</li> </ul>
Fine Arts	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved fine arts courses include art, music, dance, theatre courses and floral design.</li> <li>• Students must take 2 sequential semesters of the same course to meet the Fine Arts credit requirement.</li> </ul>
Electives	4	+ 2 additional electives	
<b>Total Credits Required</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	

### Financial Aid Application for High School Graduation

Completing a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) is a graduation requirement. FAFSA and/or TAFSA must be completed before a student can receive a high school diploma. A parent or legal guardian may provide written notice to opt out their child. Students who are at least 18 years old may opt themselves out of the requirement.