

To: Counselors, Secondary Principals and Executive Directors

Subject: Dallas ISD Board decisions about High School Graduation Requirements under House Bill 5 and changes to GPA weighting

At the February 27, 2014 regular board meeting, the Trustees adopted policy that requires the following:

**For current students (those who entered high school prior to the 2014-15 school year):**

- Students may move to the Foundation HS plan under HB5, however, each student must have parent permission to do so.
- Whether or not they change graduation plans, students are still required to complete the local credit requirements for an additional .5 credit of PE and .5 credit of Health. However, they may opt out of these two requirements with parent permission.
- If they opt out of Health, there is still state-required health-related content that students must learn. The Teaching and Learning department will be developing modules that must be taught in another class (e.g., science) so that students may graduate with the health content requirement completed.

**For students entering HS in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter:**

- Students will start with the (new) Distinguished Plan as their expected (or default) HS graduation plan. (This plan is very similar to the current Recommended Plan, which was the Dallas ISD “default” plan for students who are currently in high school.)
- Students are required to complete .5 credit of Health as a local requirement within their chosen graduation plan. There are no other local credit requirements.
- Students may opt out of the local requirement for .5 credit of Health with parent permission. However, as noted above, there is certain state-required health related content they must learn and T&L will be developing the content modules that must be taught in another course.
- Beginning with this class of students, successfully-completed dual credit courses will earn 9 points – the same weighting as AP and IB courses. This change in weighting applies ONLY to students entering high school in 2014-15 and thereafter.

Attached is a chart that outlines the basic requirements for current HS students and for those who are entering HS in the 2014-15 school year.

Counselors will have additional information and materials that are to be used to document student/parent decisions as the course choice decisions are made for next school year within the master scheduling calendar. We will also provide additional information through the WAIP and other venues.

Please feel free to contact me or Dr. Linda Johnson, Executive Director of College and Career Readiness, if you have immediate questions.

	NEW Distinguished Plan	Foundation Plan + Endorsements	Foundation Plan
Discipline	Credits	Credits	Credits
English	4	4	4
Math	4	4	3
Science	4	4	3
Social Studies	3	3	3
Language Other Than English	2	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1	1
Physical Education	1	1	1
Health (Dallas ISD Local)	.5	.5	.5
Electives	6.5	6.5	4.5
<b>Total Credits for Graduation:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>

## House Bill 5 Graduation Plans (required for class of 2018 and beyond)

### NEW DISTINGUISHED GRADUATION PLAN: 26 CREDITS (Dallas ISD)

- 4 credits **English**: ELA I,II,III, one credit in any authorized advanced English course
- 4 credits **Mathematics**: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, one credit in any authorized advanced math course
- 4 credits **Science**: Biology, two credits in any advanced science course, one credit in IPC or in any additional authorized advanced science course
- 3 credits **Social Studies**: U.S. History, Government, Economics, World Geography or World History

- 2 credits **LOTE** or Computer Programming
- 1 credit **Fine Arts**
- 1 credit **Physical Education**
- .5 credit **Health** (*Dallas ISD Local*)
- 6.5 credits in electives (may include CTE or certification courses)

**Eligible for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university under top 10% rule.**

**Eligible for Texas grant.**

**Credit requirements specific to at least one Endorsement must be earned.**

### FOUNDATION + ENDORSEMENT(S) GRADUATION PLAN: 26 CREDITS

- 4 credits **English**: ELA I,II,III, one credit in any authorized advanced English course
- 4 credits **Mathematics**: Algebra I, Geometry, two credits in any authorized advanced math course (STEM Endorsement requires Algebra II)
- 4 credits **Science**: Biology, two credits in any advanced science course, one credit in IPC or in any additional authorized advanced science course
- 3 credits **Social Studies**: U.S. History, Government, Economics, World Geography or World History

- 2 credits **LOTE** or Computer Programming
- 1 credit **Fine Arts**
- 1 credit **Physical Education**
- .5 credit **Health** (*Dallas ISD Local*)
- 6.5 credits in electives (may include CTE or certification courses)

**Credit requirements specific to at least one Endorsement must be earned.**

### FOUNDATION GRADUATION PLAN: 22 CREDITS *Students must wait until they complete the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and have parent/guardian permission in writing to select the Foundation Plan*

- 4 credits **English**: ELA I,II,III, one credit in any authorized advanced English course
- 3 credits **Mathematics**: Algebra I, Geometry, one credit in any authorized advanced math course
- 3 credits **Science**: Biology, one credit in any advanced science course, one credit in IPC or in any additional authorized advanced science course
- 3 credits **Social Studies**: U.S. History, Government, Economics, World Geography or World History

- 2 credits **LOTE** or Computer Programming
- 1 credit **Fine Arts**
- 1 credit **Physical Education**
- .5 credit **Health** (*Dallas ISD Local*)
- 4.5 credits in electives (may include CTE or certification courses)

**Eligible for admission to a Texas four-year college or university. College admission is not guaranteed under this graduation plan.**

## ENDORSEMENTS

*A student may earn an Endorsement by successfully completing:*

*Curriculum requirements for the Endorsement ♦ Four credits each in English, mathematics, and science ♦ Additional elective credits*

**STEM**

**BUSINESS and  
INDUSTRY**

**PUBLIC  
SERVICES**

**ARTS and  
HUMANITIES**

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
STUDIES**

Science, including Environmental Science; Technology, including Computer Science; Engineering; and Advanced Mathematics (*Algebra II is required*)

Database Management; Information Technology; Communications; Accounting; Finance; Marketing; Graphic Design; Architecture; Construction; Welding; Logistics; Automotive Technology; Agricultural Science; and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Health Sciences and occupations; Education and Training; Law Enforcement; and Culinary Arts and Hospitality

Political Science; World Languages; Cultural Studies; English Literature; History; and Fine and Performing Arts

Students select courses from the curriculum of each of the other endorsement areas and earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement

STATE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION			PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS <i>(recorded on diploma and transcript)</i>	
English I English II	Algebra I U.S. History	Biology	<b>•OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE:</b> Dual credits; AP and/or IB; PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT and/or ACT; bilingualism and/or biliteracy	<b>•CERTIFICATION:</b> Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certificate or license