



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: HB3 Graduation Plans

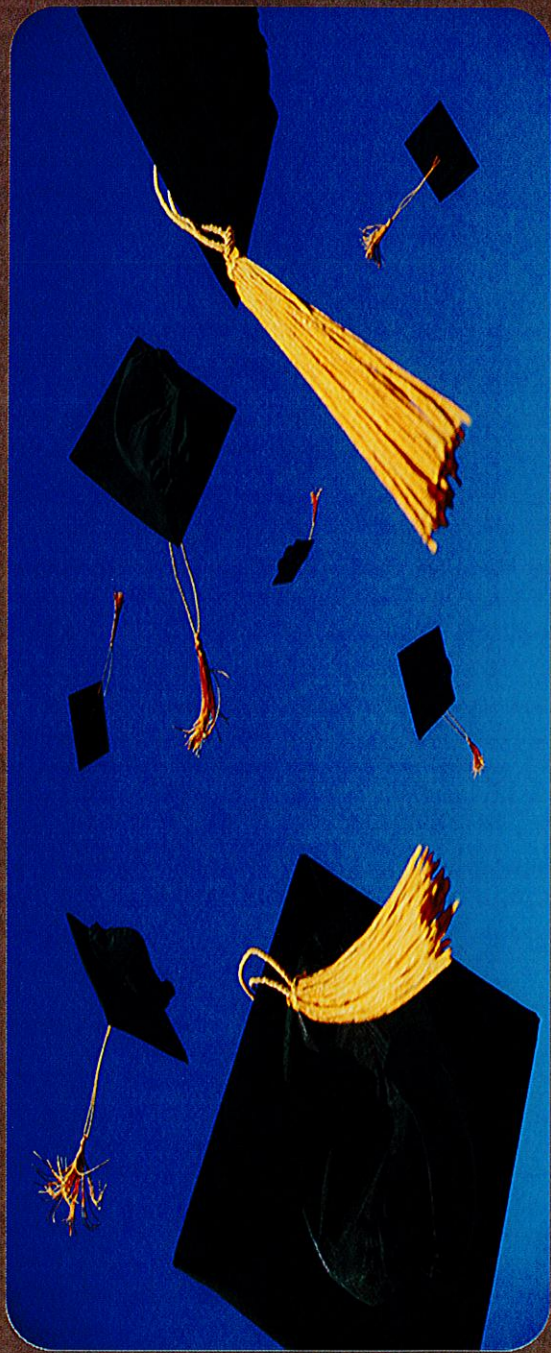
SUBMITTED BY: Pamela R. Juarez **OF:** Instructional Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: October 21, 2009

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Attached please find New Graduation highlights. The administration has chosen to continue with our existing graduation requirements as local requirements in the best interest of our students.



HOUSE BILL 3 CHANGES TO GRADUATION PLANS



Guidance & Counseling Dept.

8-6-2009

House Bill 3, New Graduation Plan

Highlights

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- New graduation requirements will take effect on September 1, 2009.
- These new requirements *supersede* the graduation requirements in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74.
- House Bill 3 changes have been made *only* to the Recommended High School Program and the Minimum High School Program.
- **TEA confirms that districts have the authority to continue their existing graduation requirements as local requirements.**

Does the added flexibility apply to students who will be seniors in 09-10 ?

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- The changes to the graduation requirements that affect the enrichment areas apply to all students in the recommended high school program (RHSP) **regardless of when they entered grade 9.**
- The requirements for the foundation areas (English, math, science, and social studies) still depend on when a student entered grade 9.

Distinguished Achievement Program

- House Bill 3 does **not** change any of the course requirements for students on the DAP. The law limits the State Board of Education's (SBOE) authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the RHSP only.
- Consequently, requirements in SBOE rule that go beyond the requirements in the law are still in effect for the DAP.

HB 3 Changes to RHSP

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- To provide more flexibility in the enrichment areas of the RHSP by increasing the number of elective credits to six from the current three and one half.
- Requires one credit of physical education. The half credit of foundations of personal fitness is no longer required.
- No longer requires half a credit in health.
- No longer requires one credit in technology applications.
- Speech under the RHSP is considered an elective.

In order to opt into the minimum program a student must:

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- Be at least 16 years of age;
- Have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or
- Have failed to be promoted to the tenth grade one or more times as determined by the school district in order to be permitted to take courses under the minimum high school program.

Recommendations on HB 3 for 2009-2010

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- Recommend that UISD **does not** adopt the changes to the RHSP. UISD will maintain higher graduation requirements than the state which would mean that the student must have as their electives health, foundations of personal fitness and BCIS I.
- All incoming freshmen are placed on DAP which require the health, foundations of personal fitness and BCIS I. Therefore, we keep it mandatory for all.