

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LEGAL)

A student may graduate and receive a diploma only if the student successfully completes:

1. The curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education [see STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, below] and has performed satisfactorily on the exit-level assessments [see EKB]; or
2. An individualized education program (IEP) developed under Education Code 29.005. [See EHBAB]

Education Code 28.025(c); 19 TAC 101.4001(a)

POSTHUMOUS
DIPLOMA

Beginning with students enrolled in grade 12 during the 2005–06 school year, and on request of the student's parent, the District shall issue a high school diploma posthumously to a student who died while enrolled in the District at grade level 12, provided that the student was academically on track at the time of death to receive a diploma at the end of the school year in which the student died. "School year" includes any summer session following the spring semester.

EXCEPTION

The District is not required to issue a posthumous diploma if the student was convicted of a felony offense under Title 5 or 6, Penal Code, or adjudicated as having engaged in conduct constituting a felony offense under Title 5 or 6, Penal Code.

Education Code 28.0254

DIPLOMA /
TRANSCRIPT /
CERTIFICATE OF
COURSEWORK
COMPLETION

Graduates of each high school are awarded the same type of diploma. The academic achievement record (transcript), rather than the diploma, records individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed and displays appropriate graduation seals. *19 TAC 74.41(a), 74.51(a), 74.61(a)* [See EI for provisions regarding certificate of coursework completion]

SPECIAL
EDUCATION
STUDENTS

A student receiving special education services who successfully completes the requirements of his or her IEP shall receive a high school diploma. *19 TAC 101.7(c)*

PERSONAL
GRADUATION
PLAN (PGP)

A principal shall designate a guidance counselor, teacher, or other appropriate individual to develop and administer a personal graduation plan (PGP) for each student enrolled in a junior high, middle, or high school who:

1. Does not perform satisfactorily on a state assessment instrument; or
2. Is not likely to receive a high school diploma before the fifth school year following the student's enrollment in grade level nine, as determined by the District.

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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];
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.

A student's IEP developed under Education Code 29.005 [see EH-BAB] may be used as the student's PGP.

In addition, the District is encouraged to establish for each student entering grade nine a PGP that identifies a course of study that:

1. Promotes college and workforce readiness;
2. Promotes career placement and advancement; and
3. Facilitates the student's transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

Education Code 28.0212

EARLY GRADUATION

A parent is entitled to request, with the expectation that the request will not be unreasonably denied, that the parent's child be permitted to graduate from high school earlier than the child would normally graduate, if the child completes each course required for graduation. The decision of the Board concerning the request is final and may not be appealed. *Education Code 26.003(a)(3)(C), 26.003(b)* [See FMH, FNG]

STATE GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

All credit for graduation must be earned no later than grade 12.
19 TAC 74.41(b), 74.51(b), 74.61(b)

Note: For current state graduation requirements, see Education Code 28.025 and
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/index.html>.

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MINIMUM HIGH
SCHOOL PROGRAM

The District shall ensure that each student entering the ninth grade in the 2004–05 school year and thereafter enrolls in the courses necessary to complete the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program unless the student, the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator agree in writing signed by each party that the student should be permitted to take courses under the Minimum High School Program and the student:

1. Is at least 16 years of age;
2. Has completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum under Education Code 28.002(a)(1); or
3. Has failed to be promoted to the tenth grade one or more times as determined by the District.

A student agreeing to take courses under the Minimum High School Program may, upon request, resume taking courses under the Recommended High School Program.

NOTICE

Before a student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student may agree that the student be permitted to take courses under the Minimum High School Program, the District must provide the written notice developed by TEA to the parent or person standing in parental relation explaining the benefits of the Recommended High School Program.

Education Code 28.025(b), (b-6), (b-8); 19 TAC 74.51(d), 74.52.–.54, 74.61(c)

REQUIREMENTS

A student must earn at least 22 credits to complete the Minimum High School Program. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the program requirements listed at 19 TAC 74.11. *19 TAC 74.42, 74.52*

RECOMMENDED
HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM

A student entering grade 9 in the 2007–08 school year or thereafter must earn at least 26 credits to complete the Recommended High School Program. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the program requirements listed at Education Code 28.025. *Education Code 28.025; 19 TAC 74.63*

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAM

A student entering grade 9 in the 2007–08 school year or thereafter must earn at least 26 credits to complete the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the program requirements listed at Education Code 28.025. *Education Code 28.025; 19 TAC 74.64*

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CURRICULUM MAY NOT VARY	The District may not vary the curriculum for a course in the required curriculum based on whether a student is enrolled in the Minimum, Recognized, or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program. <i>Education Code 28.004(q)</i>
SUBSTITUTIONS	No substitutions are allowed for high school graduation requirements in the Recommended and Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Programs, except as provided by State Board rule. <i>19 TAC 74.43(d), 74.44(e), 74.53(d), 74.54(e)</i>
AP OR IB COURSES	College Board Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for required courses in appropriate areas. These courses may be used as electives in all three high school graduation programs. <i>19 TAC 74.41(g), 74.51(h)</i>
READING	<p>The District may offer a maximum of 3 credits of reading for state graduation elective credit for identified students if the District:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopts policies to identify students in need of additional reading instruction;2. Has procedures that include assessment of individual student needs and ongoing evaluation of each student's progress; and3. Monitors instructional activities to ensure that student needs are addressed. <p>Reading credits may be selected from Reading I, II, or III.</p> <p><i>19 TAC 74.41(d), 74.51(e), 74.61(e)</i></p>
COLLEGE COURSES	A student may comply with the curriculum requirements under the Minimum, Recommended, or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program for each subject of the foundation curriculum and for languages other than English by successfully completing appropriate courses in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education. <i>Education Code 28.002(b-7)</i>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBSTITUTIONS	The Board may allow a student to substitute certain physical activities for the required credits of physical education, including the one-half credit of Foundations of Personal Fitness. The substitutions must be based on the physical activity involved in drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester; Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); athletics; Dance I-IV; and two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses. <i>19 TAC 74.11(d)(7)(A)</i>

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PRIVATE OR COMMERCIALY SPONSORED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	The District, with the approval of the Commissioner, may allow a student to comply with the curriculum requirements for the required physical education credit by participating in a private or commercially sponsored physical activity program provided on or off a school campus and outside the regular school day. <i>Education Code 28.002(b-10)</i>
TRANSFERS FROM OUT-OF-STATE OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS	Out-of-state or out-of-country transfer students (including foreign exchange students) and transfer students from Texas nonpublic schools are eligible to receive Texas diplomas but shall complete all applicable high school graduation requirements. Any course credits required for graduation that are not completed before enrollment may be satisfied through credit by examination, correspondence courses, distance learning, or completing the course, according to the provisions of 19 TAC 74.26. 19 TAC 74.11(f), 74.51(f), 74.61(f) [See EEJA, EEJB, EEJC, EHDE, and EI]
GRADUATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS	A student receiving special education services may graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The student has satisfactorily completed the state's or District's (whichever is greater) minimum curriculum and credit requirements applicable to students in general education for graduation under the Recommend or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Programs, including satisfactory performance on the exit-level assessment instrument; or2. The student has satisfactorily completed the state's or District's (whichever is greater) minimum curriculum and credit requirements applicable to students in general education for graduation under the Minimum High School Program, including participation in state assessments. The student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall determine whether satisfactory performance on a required state assessment shall also be required for graduation.
COMPLETION OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	<i>19 TAC 89.1070(b)</i>
COMPLETION OF IEP	A student receiving special education services may also graduate and receive a regular high school diploma when the student's ARD committee has determined that the student has successfully completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The student's IEP;2. One of the following conditions, consistent with the student's IEP:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Full-time employment, based on the student's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to suffi-

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cient self-help skills to enable the student to maintain the employment without direct and ongoing educational support of the District;

- b. Demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that do not require direct ongoing educational support of the District; or
 - c. Access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education, or employment or educational options for which the student has been prepared by the academic program;
- 3. The state's or District's (whichever is greater) minimum credit requirements for students without disabilities; and
 - 4. The state's or District's minimum curriculum requirements to the extent possible with modifications/substitutions only when it is determined necessary by the ARD committee for the student to receive an appropriate education.

The ARD committee shall determine needed educational services upon the request of the student or parent to resume services, as long as the student meets the age eligibility requirements.

19 TAC 89.1070(c), (h)

AGING OUT

A student receiving special education services may also graduate and receive a regular high school diploma upon the ARD committee's determination that the student no longer meets age eligibility requirements and has completed the requirements specified in the IEP. *19 TAC 89.1070(d)*

EVALUATION

Special education students graduating under the above provisions shall be provided with a summary of academic achievement and functional performance as described at 34 CFR 300.305(e)(3). The summary shall consider, as appropriate, the views of the parent and student and written recommendations from adult service agencies on how to assist the student in meeting postsecondary goals. If the student is graduating based on completion of his or her IEP, the evaluation under 34 CFR 300.305(e) shall be included as part of the summary. Students who participate in graduation ceremonies but who are not graduating and who will remain in school to complete their education do not have to be evaluated. *19 TAC 89.1070(e), (f)*

GRADUATION OF
MILITARY
DEPENDENTS

COURSE WAIVER

District officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed by a military student in another district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would

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qualify to graduate from the sending school, the District shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

TRANSFERS
DURING SENIOR
YEAR

Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during the student's senior year be ineligible to graduate from the District after all alternatives have been considered, the sending and receiving districts shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending district, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending district. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student.

SUBSTITUTE
PASSING
STANDARD

The Commissioner shall adopt a passing standard on one or more national norm-referenced achievement tests for purposes of permitting a qualified military dependent to meet that standard as a substitute for completing a specific course otherwise required for graduation. The passing standard is available only for a student who enrolls in a public school in this state for the first time after completing the ninth grade or who reenrolls in a public school in this state at or above the tenth grade level after an absence of at least two years from the public schools of this state. Each passing standard in effect when a student first enrolls in a Texas public high school remains applicable to the student for the duration of the student's high school enrollment, regardless of any subsequent revision of the standard.

Education Code 162.002 art. VII, §§ A, C [See FDD]