

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2014

HB5 High School Graduation Requirements Update

Board Goals

Vision goal I C - remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; Teaching & Learning goal II A – cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students; and Climate goal III D – instill in students a love of life-long learning.

Purpose of Report

The State Board of Education met January 28-31st to finalize the new high school graduation requirements outlined in HB 5. All the amendments approved by the SBOE will be incorporated and the final document, as approved by the board, will be posted on the TEA website in approximately two weeks. This report is for the purpose of updating the information presented to the Board on January 21st based on the newly approved requirements.

Objectives

Below are listed the major changes impacting the **Foundation Plan**.

Speech

- Speech was not included as a required course for graduation.
- However, verbiage was added in the Foundation graduation plan that requires students to “demonstrate proficiency”, as determined by the district, in particular speech skills: delivering clear verbal messages, choosing effective nonverbal behaviors, listening for desired results, applying critical-thinking and problem-solving processes, and identifying, analyzing, developing, and evaluating communication skills for personal and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and professional presentations.
- We made a good strategic decision to have all freshmen continue to take the Professional Communications course which we pair with our High School 101 course. This will satisfy the requirement for students to “demonstrate proficiency” in this area and more importantly provide them with a strong CTE foundational course that serves a gateway course to enter into the CTE clusters.

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2014

HB5 High School Graduation Requirements Update

Math

- Rather than use the verbiage of “advanced math”, courses will be identified for the *third* math or the *fourth* math. This was something that the Board pointed out when reviewing the graduation requirements at the last Board meeting as confusing, so that has been addressed.
- Algebra 2 will only be required for the STEM endorsement and the Distinguished Achievement designation.
- Two new courses were added to meet the *third* and *fourth* math credit, Algebraic Reasoning and Statistics. These courses were added to the rules as placeholders for courses that TEA will develop. A timeline for course development was not established.

World Languages

- Specificity was added regarding students who choose two credits of computer programming languages to meet their World Language requirement. The two credits must be selected from the courses Computer Science 1, 2, or 3.
- Also, additional course substitutions for a student who is not likely to complete the second credit of World Languages were added including World History or World Geography, a World Languages credit in a language other than the first credit language, or computer programming language.

Details are still emerging for each of the endorsements, but below are the key changes for the **Endorsements:**

- Math Models with Applications was also added as a fourth math credit option in the Endorsement requirements. Math Models will only remain as a fourth credit option until either the Algebraic Reasoning or Statistics course has been developed and approved.
 - Also added to the Endorsement requirement as a *fourth* math was a college preparatory math course to be developed by the district and a local higher education partner.
 - The STEM endorsement had numerous revisions.
 - The option to take a coherent sequence of four credits in computer science now lists 13 specific courses that a student must choose from such Fundamentals of Computer Science, AP Computer Science, etc.
 - The math rule changed reducing the number of math credits from four to *three* by successfully completing Algebra 2 and two (rather than 3) additional math credits for which Algebra 2 is a prerequisite.
-

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2014

HB5 High School Graduation Requirements Update

- The number of additional science credits after successfully completing chemistry and physics was reduced from three to *two*.
- A new STEM option was added which allows the endorsement to be earned through cross-disciplinary options in addition to Algebra 2, physics, and chemistry.
- Students who select the Business and Industry endorsement have more course options in the English credit requirement and a new option of earning credits in technology applications was added.
- In the Arts and Humanities endorsement the language was tweaked to allow four courses to be selected from one or two categories or disciplines rather than just one.
- Language was added in the Multidisciplinary endorsement that allows a student to earn four credits from more than just the four core foundation courses by including World Languages and fine arts courses.
- One of the biggest changes moved Health Science from the STEM endorsement to the Public Services endorsement.

Finally, under the **Performance Acknowledgement** criteria, the required scores for the AP and IB exams were reduced to a score of 3 or higher for AP and a score of 4 or higher for the IB exam.

Operational Impact

If the district should decide to develop new courses allowed under the new requirements, it is possible that instructional materials for those courses would be needed which would require additional funding.

Results

The updated information should help provide a clearer picture of the final changes to the new high school graduation requirements as recently approved by the State Board of Education. Further updates will be provided as we study the details of the final document and receive clarifications from TEA.