

House Bill (HB) 3 and Graduation Requirements for 2009-2010

The passage of House Bill (HB) 3 requires new graduation requirements that will take effect on September 1, 2009. These new graduation requirements supersede the graduation requirements in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74. Prior to this legislative change, DISD staff was in the midst of conversations relating to the number of credits required of DISD students to graduate on the minimum graduation plan. Currently, The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) is the default graduation plan for all Texas and DISD students. Successful completion of the RHSP requires students to accrue 26 credits for graduation.

Recommended High School Program (RHSP) and Distinguished High School Program (DAP)

The RHSP and the Distinguished Achievement Plan (DAP) outline the total number of credits for graduation and the requirement of 4 credits in the 4 foundation areas of mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies/economics did not change, however HB 3 changes include:

- Providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas of the RHSP by increasing the number of elective credits to 6, requiring one credit of PE, 2 credits of language other than English (LOTE), and 1 credit of fine arts; and
- Providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas in the DAP by increasing elective credits to 5, requiring 1 credit of PE, 3 credits of LOTE, and 1 credit of fine arts
- Credits removed from the requirement are ½ credit of Health, ½ credit of Communications Applications, 1 credit of Technical Applications (usually BCIS), ½ credit of PE

Specific Information regarding the graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade before 2007-2008, and the graduation requirements for students entering the 9th grade in 2007-2008 or later is attached.

Minimum High School Program

Under state law, permission to graduate under the minimum high school program must be agreed to in writing and signed by the student, student's parent (or other person standing in parental relation to the student), and a school counselor or school administrator.

Under HB 3, to graduate under the state minimum high school program, students must

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have completed 2 credits for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or
- Have failed to be classified as a 10th grade student one or more times as determined by the school district.

Local districts may continue to adopt additional graduation requirements that go beyond the state requirements for graduation. DISD teachers, counselors, campus administrators, and central office personnel are exploring the possibilities allowing the requirements necessary for the state minimum high school program to serve as the requirements necessary for the DISD minimum high school program. A study of local districts indicates a variance in the number of credits required for graduation on the minimum high school program. 10 district policies were examined in this comparison. The range

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of credits required for graduation on the minimum high school program is 22 to 27. Two districts require the same number of credits as Denton ISD, seven districts require less, and one district requires more. The results are shown in Table II below.

Table II:

District	Minimum Plan Credits Required All Campuses	Excess of State Minimum Plan All Campuses	Excess Credit Requirements	Minimum Plan Credits Required Alternative Campus	Difference From DISD
Denton ISD	26	4	Electives	26	*
Birdville ISD	24	2	Foreign Language	24	-2
CFB ISD	24	2	Electives	24	-2
Frisco ISD	25	3	1 Fine Arts, 1 Foreign Lang. 1 Elective	25	-1
Grapevine Colleyville ISD	26	4	Electives	26	Same
HEB ISD	26*	4	Electives	22	-4*
Keller ISD	22	0	N/A	22	-4
Lewisville ISD	26	4	Electives	26	Same
Mansfield ISD	27	5	Electives	27	+1
Northwest ISD	25	3	Electives	25	-1
Plano ISD	24	2	Science, Elective	24	-2

- Option 1:** Maintain the HB 3 requirements and number of credits (26) for graduation at any or all DISD high schools on the minimum high school program.
- Option 2:** Maintain the HB 3 requirements, reducing the number of credits to 22 only at Fred Moore High School (see HEB ISD for sample policy).
- Option 3:** Maintain the HB 3 requirements, reducing the number of credits to 22 at all DISD high schools (see Keller ISD for sample policy).
- Option 4:** Maintain the HB 3 requirements, reducing the number of credits at any or all DISD high schools to a number determined by staff recommendation and board consultation (see district samples).
- Option 5:** Maintain the HB 3 requirements, increasing the number of credits to 27 at any or all DISD high schools (see Mansfield ISD for sample policy).

Recommended High School Program
for students who entered Grade 9 **before** 2007-08

	Graduation Requirements Current – 24 credits	Graduation Requirements HB 3 - 24 credits
English Language Arts (4)	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
Social Studies (4)	World Geography	World Geography
	World History	World History
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
Mathematics (3)	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
Science (3)	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology
	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics
Languages other than English (2)	Any two levels in the same language	Any two levels in the same language
Fine Arts (1)	May be satisfied by any course in TAC Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts	May be satisfied by any course in TAC Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts
Physical Education	1½ required	1 required
Speech	½ required	½ required per current SBOE rule, may count as an elective
Technology Applications	1 required	Not required
Health	½ required	Not required
Electives	3 ½ - May be selected from the list of courses specified in TAC §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements	* 6 - May be selected from the list of courses specified in TAC §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements

*Electives are in addition to the required credits in fine arts, physical education and languages other than English

July 2009

Recommended High School Program
for students who entered Grade 9 in 2007-08 or later

	Graduation Requirements Current – 26 credits	Graduation Requirements HB 3 – 26 credits
English Language Arts (4)	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
Social Studies (4)	World Geography	World Geography
	World History	World History
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
Mathematics (4)	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
	4 th SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 th SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
Science (4)	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology
	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics
	4 th SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 th SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
Languages other than English (2)	Any two levels in the same language	Any two levels in the same language
Fine Arts (1)	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts
Physical Education (1)	1½ required	1 required
Speech	½ required	½ required per current SBOE rule, may count as an elective
Technology Applications	1 required	Not required
Health	½ required	Not required
Electives	3 ½ - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements	*6 - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

2004-05 THROUGH
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 school years.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

BEGINNING WITH THE
2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
3. Athletics.
4. Dance I-IV.
5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical ac-

Denton ISD
061901

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

tivity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

NINTH GRADERS IN
2004-05 AND
THEREAFTER

Each student entering grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year and thereafter must enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education for either 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 that the student be permitted to take courses under the Minimum High School Program. Students shall be allowed to take courses under the Minimum High School Program if:

1. An admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines that it is in the best interest of the student;
2. It is a Section 504 committee decision; or
3. A parent completes a written request using the District waiver form and indicates the student has a repeated lack of success in subjects required for the Recommended High School Program. The completed waiver form shall be approved by the high school administration.

GRADUATION
PROGRAM
REQUIREMENT FOR
LOCAL HONORS

A student must complete the requirements of the State Board of Education Recommended Program or the Advanced / Distinguished Achievement Program in order to be designated valedictorian or salutatorian or to be ranked among the top ten students in the senior class for the determination of local honors. [See EIC]

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year.

REQUIRED NUMBER
OF CLASSES
SOPHOMORES

Students entering grade 9 in 2004-05 and thereafter are required to take seven classes in both the freshman and sophomore years.

2004-05, 2005-06, AND
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

For students beginning grade 9 in school years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, the District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be World Geography and a third year of State Board-approved science.

For students entering grade 9 in 2004-05 only, Algebra I taken in grade 8 shall count as one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credit shall be a third year of foreign language.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/ Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credit shall be a third year of foreign language.
BEGINNING WITH THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR	The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year.
MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be a third year of foreign language. Algebra I taken in grade 8 shall count as one of the mathematics credits required for graduation.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBSTITUTIONS	<p>The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).3. Athletics.4. Dance I-IV.5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.
OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted off campus. Only Olympic-type activities shall be acceptable as substitutes. The program shall involve a minimum of 15 documented hours per week of intense training that includes a minimum of five documented hours per week of student participation in physical activities. These activities may include ice skating, gymnastics, ballet, fencing, equestrian sports, and swimming. [See EHAC]
READING CREDITS	The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and

Birdville ISD
220902

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

evaluate student progress, and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBSTITUTIONS	<p>The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).3. Athletics.4. Dance I-IV.5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.
OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]
READING CREDITS	<p>The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR	The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year.
MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be 1 fine arts, 1 foreign language, and 1 academic elective.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.
2005-06 THROUGH THE 2006-07 SCHOOL YEARS	The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2005-06 school year through the 2006-07 school year.
MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be 1 fine arts, 1 elective, and 1 academic elective.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.
BEGINNING WITH THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR	The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter.
MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be 1 fine arts, 1 elective, and 1 academic elective.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
3. Athletics.
4. Dance I-IV.
5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

GRADE 9 IN THE 2004-
05, 2005-06, AND
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements shall apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05, 2005-06, or 2006-07 school year.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

BEGINNING WITH
GRADE 9 IN THE 2007-
08 SCHOOL YEAR

Application of the following graduation requirements shall begin with students who enter grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Athletics.
3. Dance I-IV.
4. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

2004-05, 2005-06,
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year, 2005-06 school year, and the 2006-07 school year.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ALTERNATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM

Students graduating from a District nondisciplinary alternative educational program shall pass the exit-level test and complete at least the state requirements of the Minimum Program, the Recommended Program, or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. A student shall only be allowed to graduate under the Minimum Program with approval from a committee that includes a campus administrator, counselor, and the student's parent.

BEGINNING WITH THE
2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ALTERNATIVE
EDUCATION
PROGRAM

Students graduating from a District nondisciplinary alternative educational program shall pass the exit-level test and complete at least the state requirements of the Minimum Program, the Recommended Program, or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. A student shall only be allowed to graduate under the Minimum Program with approval from a committee that includes a campus administrator, counselor, and the student's parent.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Athletics.
3. Dance I-IV.

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(LOCAL)

4. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

2004-05 THROUGH
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 school years.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Minimum Program beyond those mandated by the state.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.

BEGINNING WITH THE
2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and subsequent years thereafter.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Minimum Program beyond those mandated by the state.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
3. Athletics.
4. Dance I-IV.
5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

GRADE 9 PRIOR TO
THE 2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements shall apply to students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2007-08 school year.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall include 3 elective credits, and all students shall be required to complete World History, World Geography, and an additional approved science course.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall include 1 credit of science, and all students shall be required to complete both World History and World Geography.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall include 1 credit of science, and all students shall be required to complete both World History and World Geography.

BEGINNING WITH
GRADE 9 IN THE 2007-
08 SCHOOL YEAR

Application of the following graduation requirements began with students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 4 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall include 3 elective credits, and all students shall be required to complete World History, World Geography, and an additional approved science course.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state; however, all students shall be required to complete both World History and World Geography.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state; however, all students shall be required to complete both World History and World Geography.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
3. Athletics.

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4. Dance I-IV.
5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for approved private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus. [See also EHAC]

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

RESIDENCY
REQUIREMENT FOR
GRADUATION

The District requires a student who intends to graduate to be enrolled and successfully complete the entire nine-week grading period in which the student completes graduation requirements. For example, a student completing graduation requirements in December shall have been enrolled for the nine weeks from October through December. The Superintendent may grant waivers to this requirement, based on extenuating circumstances.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

THE 2004-05, 2005-06,
AND 2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 school years.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 5 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

BEGINNING WITH THE
2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 5 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 1 credit in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credit shall be an elective.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.
2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
3. Athletics.
4. Dance I-IV.
5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.

OTHER PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical ac-

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

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tivity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]

READING CREDITS

The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:

1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.
2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

EARLY GRADUATION

Students may graduate at the end of any semester if all requirements for graduation have been met. Arrangements must be made with the principal and counselor prior to the start of the student's last semester. A conference between the parents, principal, and the student shall be required before approval is granted. Schedule changes shall not be allowed once the final semester has begun.

Early graduates shall be given a letter of high school completion upon the completion of requirements for graduation if this is before the regular period for class graduation. Early graduates may participate in the graduation exercises at the end of the school year, provided all arrangements have been made and approval by the principal has been obtained. Early graduates may have their high school diploma mailed to them if they elect not to participate in the graduation exercises.

GRADUATION
PROGRAMS

Grade 9 students entering District schools will be required to enroll in the Recommended or in the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. Permission to graduate under the Minimum Program will be granted only if certain criteria are met and an agreement is reached among the following persons:

1. The student;
2. The student's parent(s) or person(s) standing in parental relationship; and
3. The counselor or appropriate administrator.

2004-05 THROUGH
2006-07 SCHOOL
YEARS

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 school years.

MINIMUM
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

ADVANCED /
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAM

The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. The additional credits shall be electives.

BEGINNING WITH THE
2007-08 SCHOOL
YEAR

The following graduation requirements apply to students who entered grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

MINIMUM	The District requires completion of 3 credits in addition to those
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits beyond those mandated by the state for graduation under the Recommended Program.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits beyond those mandated by the state for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBSTITUTIONS	<p>The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.2. Athletics.3. Dance I-IV.4. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.
OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs certified by the Superintendent or designee to be of high quality and well supervised by the appropriate trained instructor, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education.
READING CREDITS	<p>The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress, and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommendation by teacher or counselor.2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LOCAL)

MINIMUM PROGRAM	The District requires completion of 2 credits in addition to those required by the state for graduation under the Minimum Program. The additional credits shall be 1 credit in science and 1 elective credit.
RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Recommended Program beyond those mandated by the state.
ADVANCED / DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	The District requires no additional credits for graduation under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program beyond those mandated by the state.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUBSTITUTIONS	<p>The District shall allow students to substitute certain physical activities for the 1.5 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Drill team, marching band, and cheerleading during the fall semester.2. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).3. Athletics.4. Dance I-IV.5. Two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses.
OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS	The District shall award state graduation credit for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus, upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. [See also EHAC]
READING CREDITS	<p>The District shall offer up to 3 credits of reading for state graduation credit. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing procedures to assess individual student needs and evaluate student progress and shall monitor instructional activities to ensure that student needs are met. Students shall be identified as eligible to earn reading credit based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommendation by a teacher or counselor.2. Scores on assessment instruments and/or achievement tests.
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	<p>When proposing graduation, the admission, review, dismissal (ARD)/individualized education program (IEP) committee shall inform the parent and student in writing that graduation constitutes a change of placement.</p> <p>When a student has met the minimum credit requirement for graduation as defined in this policy but has not passed the exit-level statewide assessment, and an ARD/IEP committee deter-</p>

mines that there are continued educational and/or transitional needs, special education services may continue. These services are specified in the student's IEP and must include specific transition goals/objectives and interagency linkages.

If special education services continue, the student may still participate in commencement exercises but shall receive a certificate of participation in lieu of a diploma.

The student shall continue receiving services as specified in the IEP until one of the following results occur, at which time a diploma shall be awarded and services shall cease. [See EIF(LEGAL)]

1. Full-time employment, based on the student's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to sufficient self-help skills to enable the students to maintain the employment without direct and on-going educational support of the District;
2. Demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that do not require direct on-going educational support of the District. Employability and self-help skills are those skills directly related to the preparation of students for employment, including general skills necessary to obtain or retain employment;
3. Access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education, to employment, or to educational options for which the student has been prepared by the academic program; or
4. Student no longer meets age eligibility requirements (through age 21).