

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.

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 EHBAB] 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 <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/index.html>.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LEGAL)

NINTH GRADERS IN 2001–02 THROUGH 2003–04	A student entering grade 9 in the 2001–02, 2002–03, or 2003–04 school year must complete the requirements of the Minimum High School Program, the Recommended High School Program, or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program. <i>19 TAC 74.41(c), 74.42–.44</i>
NINTH GRADERS IN 2004–05 AND THEREAFTER	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 that the student should be permitted to take courses under the Minimum High School Program. <i>Education Code 28.025(b); 19 TAC 74.51(d), 74.52.–.54, 74.61(c)</i>
MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	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. <i>19 TAC 74.42, 74.52</i>
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 19 TAC 74.63. <i>19 TAC 74.63</i>
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 19 TAC 74.64. <i>19 TAC 74.64</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	The District may offer a maximum of 3 credits of reading for state graduation elective credit for identified students if the District: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopts policies to identify students in need of additional reading instruction;

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LEGAL)

2. Has procedures that include assessment of individual student needs and ongoing evaluation of each student's progress; and
3. Monitors instructional activities to ensure that student needs are addressed.

Reading credits may be selected from Reading I, II, or III.

19 TAC 74.41(d), 74.51(e), 74.61(e)

PHYSICAL
EDUCATION
SUBSTITUTIONS

The Board may allow a student to substitute certain physical activities for the one and one-half 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. *19 TAC 74.11(d)(7)(A)*

PRIVATE OR
COMMERCIALY
SPONSORED
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
PROGRAMS

In accordance with local District policy, the Board may award up to 2 credits for physical education for appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted either on or off campus. The District must apply to the Commissioner for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. *19 TAC 74.52(b)(7)(C), 74.53(b)(7)(C), 74.54(b)(7)(C), 74.63(b)(7), 74.64(b)(7)*

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 high school diploma if the student has satisfactorily completed the state's or District's (whichever is greater) minimum curriculum and credit requirements for graduation applicable to students in general education and:

COMPLETION OF
GENERAL
EDUCATION
REQUIREMENTS

1. Performed satisfactorily on the exit-level assessment instrument; or
2. Been exempted from the exit-level assessment instrument under Education Code 39.027(a)(2)(B).

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
GRADUATION

EIF
(LEGAL)

COMPLETION OF
IEP

A student receiving special education services may also graduate and receive a regular high school diploma when the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee has determined that the student has successfully completed:

1. The student's IEP and met one of the conditions listed at 19 TAC 89.1070(c)(1) regarding employability, self-help skills, or access to continued services;
2. The state's or District's (whichever is greater) minimum credit requirements for students without disabilities; and
3. 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.

EVALUATION

The student shall be evaluated before graduation as required by 34 CFR 300.534(c) and the ARD committee shall consider the evaluation, the views of the parent and/or student as appropriate, and, when appropriate, seek in writing and consider written recommendations from adult service agencies.

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.

In addition, 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.

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