

Endorsement Guide

College and Career Readiness



Farwell High School 2017-2018

Updated Fall 2017

It is important to note that additional changes and updates may be released by the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency. That information will be incorporated into this guide when available.

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature established the new Foundation High School Program as the default graduation program for all students entering high school beginning in 2014-2015. The State Board of Education adopted rules related to the new Foundation High School Program in January 2014. House Bill 5 (HB5) made substantial changes to the graduation requirements moving from the current “4x4” graduation plans to a 22-credit Foundation High School Program (FHSP). This allows students to earn endorsements in specific areas of study by completing four additional credits and performance acknowledgements.

A student may elect to graduate without an endorsement under the high school foundation plan after the student’s sophomore year. The student and the student’s parent or guardian must be advised by the school counselor of the benefits of graduation with the foundation plan. The student’s parent or guardian must file written permission with the high school allowing the student to graduate without an endorsement.

The purpose of this guide is to help parents and students have a greater understanding of the Foundation High School Program (FHSP) graduation plans available. This guide contains an overview of graduation requirements for the FHSP and endorsement options.

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GRADUATION PLAN OPTIONS

FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

This 22 credit option is a basic graduation plan. However, it is not available until after the completion of the sophomore year. Changing to this plan will require parent and administrative approval in writing.

FOUNDATION WITH ENDORSEMENT

This graduation plan replaces the previously recommended High School Program. Endorsements are described in detail in this guide, including course requirements for each endorsement, and possible career fields.

A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing:

- The curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program
- The curriculum requirements for one or more endorsement(s)
- Additional coursework to include
 - Four credits in mathematics
 - Four credits in approved science courses
 - Two additional elective credits

FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Distinguished Level of Achievement replaces the current Distinguished Achievement Plan as the highest graduation plan in the state of Texas for students entering high school in 2014-2015 and beyond.

NOTE: In order to be considered for Top Ten Percent Automatic Admission in Texas Public Universities, graduates **MUST** earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement diploma.

A student may earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement by successful completion of:

- The curriculum requirements for Foundation High School Program
- The curriculum requirements for one or more endorsement(s)
- Additional coursework to include
 - Four credits in mathematics (MUST include Algebra II)
 - Four credits in approved science courses
 - Two additional elective credits

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PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students may earn a performance acknowledgement on their diploma and transcript by outstanding performance in any of the following areas:

- Dual credit course – At least 12 dual credit hours with a grade of 3.0 or higher on 4.0 scale
- PSAT, PreACT, SAT or ACT
 - PSAT Commended Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, National Achievement Scholar; OR
 - PreACT college readiness in 2 of 4 subject tests; OR
 - SAT combined Critical Reading and Math of at least 1250; OR
 - ACT composite score of 28 (excludes writing sub score)

Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license with

- Examination performance to obtain national or international business or industry certification; OR
- Examination performance to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession

ENDORSEMENT OVERVIEW

Students may earn an endorsement in the following areas: Arts & Humanities; Business & Industry; Multi-Disciplinary; and Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). There are specific course requirements in the foundation curriculum based on the endorsement selected. Most endorsements offer both a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway and a Non-CTE Pathway.

A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing

- Curriculum requirements for the endorsement
- Four credits in Mathematics
- Four credits in English
- Four credits in Science
- Two additional elective credits

Students should select courses for an endorsement based on areas of interest, student strengths or possible career paths.

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BENEFITS OF GRADUATING WITH AN ENDORSEMENT

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), must prepare and make available to each school district information that explains the advantages of the distinguished level of achievement and each endorsement.

The information must contain an explanation

- Concerning the benefits of choosing a personal high school graduation plan that includes the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program and includes one or more endorsements to enable the student to achieve a class rank in the top 10 percent for student at the campus; AND
- That encourages parents, to the greatest extent practicable, to have the student choose a personal high school graduation plan.

BUILDING A FOUR YEAR PLAN

SELECTING COURSES

Course selection is highly dependent upon the endorsement students plan to pursue. Some endorsement options have different core course requirements. It is important that students and parents pay attention to the Core Course Comparison Chart in this guide when creating their four-year plan. Students should select the most challenging core courses to allow them the most flexibility should they decide to change their endorsement or pursue multiple endorsements.

When selecting courses and an endorsement, students should consider the following questions:

- Which subjects do I enjoy and/or am I currently interested in?
- Am I challenging myself academically?
- What is my goal for post-high school?
- Are my study habits good or do I need to improve?
- What do my teachers recommend?
- Which combination of courses will give me a strong foundation and keep as many doors open as possible?
- What are the course requirements for post-high school educational institutions I am interested in?
- What career center options are there for me to explore as a potential career?

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Farwell ISD Graduation Plan

Foundation Only 22 Credits *	Foundation + Endorsements 26 Credits	Distinguished Level Achievement 26 Credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 credits English- ELA I, II, III, one credit in any advanced English course. • 3 credits Mathematics- Algebra I, Geometry, one credit in any authorized advanced math course • 3 credits Science- Biology, two credits in any advanced science course • 3 credits Social Studies- World History, US History, Government and Economics • 2 credits world language or substitute • 1 credit Physical Education • 1 credit Fine Arts • 5 credits in electives* <p>*Required electives include: Professional Communication (0.5 credit) Personal Financial Literacy (0.5 credit) and BIM - Business Information Management (1 credit)</p> <p><i>Students may opt to Foundation only after completing 10th grade</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 credits English- ELA I, II, III, one credit in any advanced English course. • 4 credits Mathematics- Algebra I, Geometry, two credits in any authorized advanced math course • 4 credits Science- Biology, three credits in any advanced science course • 3 credits Social Studies- World History, US History, Government and Economics • 2 credits world language or substitute • 1 credit Physical Education • 1 credit Fine Arts • 7 credits in electives <p>Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 credits English- ELA I, II, III, one credit in any advanced English course. • 4 credits Mathematics- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, one credit in any authorized advanced math course • 4 credits Science- Biology, three credits in any advanced science course • 3 credits Social Studies- World History, US History, Government and Economics • 2 credits world language or substitute • 1 credit Physical Education • 1 credit Fine Arts • 7 credits in electives <p>Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement</p>

Endorsements

STEM	Business/Industry	Arts & Humanities	Multidisciplinary Studies
Advanced Math and/or Science	Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Agricultural Manufacturing; Animal Science; Finance	History Band/Music Art	4 Credits in each of the four foundation subject areas. Select courses from the curriculum of each of the other endorsement areas.

State Assessments Required for Graduation	Performance Acknowledgements
English I English II Algebra I US History Biology	Outstanding performance: Dual credit coursework, PSAT, PreACT, SAT or ACT

During the 83rd Texas Legislature, House Bill 5 was signed into law, which changes high school graduation requirements for students who will be freshmen during the 2014-2015 school year and beyond. The bill provides more flexibility for high school students to pursue whether it's higher education or a career pathway. It establishes one graduation plan = Foundation High School Program (FHSP) - with opportunities to earn endorsements and performance acknowledgements.

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STEM Endorsement (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Possible Careers

- Financial Market Analyst, Actuary, Math Teacher, Stockbroker, Foreign Exchange Trader, Budget Analyst, Statistician, Cryptanalyst, Biomathematics Scientist, Microbiologist, Geologist, Environmental Scientist, Architect, Civil Engineer, Petroleum Engineer, Chemical Engineer, Nuclear Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Meteorologist, Climatologist, Physicist, Physician (any Medical Dr.), Biomedical Engineer, Chemist, Pharmacist, Dentist, Forensic Analyst

Career Pathway Sequences

STEM (Math)

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Algebra 1	Geometry	Pre-Calculus	College Algebra/Statistics
	AND		OR
	Algebra 2		Financial Math

STEM (Science)

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Biology	Chemistry	Honors Physics*	Anatomy & Physiology
		AND	OR
		Anatomy & Physiology	Environmental Systems
		OR	
		Environmental Systems	
*STEM Science MUST take Honors Physics			

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Business & Industry Endorsement

Possible Careers

- Multimedia Artist and Animator, Graphic Designer, Desktop Publisher, Audio and Video Equipment Technician, Public Relations Specialist, Photographer, Fashion Designer, Print Journalist
- Welder, Commercial and Industrial Designer, Electrical Engineering Technician, Avionics Technician, Manufactured Building Installer, Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Installer
- Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist, Cooperative Extension Agent, Environmental Engineer or Technician, Farm/Ranch Manager, Conservation Scientist, Environmental Engineer/Technician, Agricultural Inspector, Pest Control Worker, Game Manager, Golf Course Turf Manager, Water Quality Manager, Veterinary Technician, Agricultural Financial Manager

Career Pathway Sequences

Arts, AV Technology and Communication

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Business Information Management (BIM)	Graphic Design 1	Animation	Commercial Photography

Agricultural Manufacturing

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Principles of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources	Agricultural Mechanics & Metal Technologies	Agricultural Power Systems	Agricultural Facilities Design and Fabrication

Animal Science

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Principles of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources	Livestock Production	Equine Science/ Small Animal Management	Advanced Animal Science

Finance

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Business Information Management (BIM)	Accounting I	Accounting II	Financial Math

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Arts & Humanities Endorsement

Possible Careers

- Artist, Animator, Art Director, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer, Landscape Architect, Film Director, Interior Designer, Photographer, Floral Design, Web Design
- Band Director, Music Teacher/Professor, Music Librarian Minister of Music, Concert Hall Manager, Stage Manager, Sound Engineer or Audio Technician, Instrument Repair, Piano Tuner-technician, Music Store Manager, Music or Voice Therapist, Music Producer, Singer/Songwriter, Publicist, Music Journalist, Radio or TV Disc Jockey, Music or Program Director, Record Producer, Recording Engineer, Professional Musician, Booking Agent, Concert Promoter, Tour Coordinator/Manager
- History Teacher, Historian, Museum Curator, Travel Agent/Guide, College Professor, Archivist, Anthropologist, Archeologist, Sociologist, Editor/Journalist, Lawyer, Political Analyst, Government Lobbyist, Foreign Service Officer

Career Pathway Sequences

History

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
World History	US History	Psychology/Sociology	Government/Economics
			Or
			College History 1301/1302
			Or
			Psychology/Sociology

Music

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4

Art

9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Art 1	Art 2	Art 3	Art 4

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Multi-Disciplinary Endorsement

Possible Careers

- Any career that requires an Associate's or Bachelor's college degree.

Career Pathway Sequences

Multi-Disciplinary (One of the following)

- **4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas**
- **4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and Chemistry and/or Physics/Principles of Technology**
- **4 credits in dual credit selected from English, Math, Social Studies or Fine Arts**

**Visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.
Students may earn more than one endorsement.**

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