

Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter G. Graduation Requirements, Beginning with School Year 2012-2013

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter G issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(4), 28.002, 28.00222, and 28.025, unless otherwise noted.

§74.71. High School Graduation Requirements.

- (a) Graduates of each high school program are awarded the same type of diploma. The transcript or academic achievement record (AAR), rather than the diploma, records individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed and displays appropriate graduation seals.
- (b) All credit for graduation must be earned no later than Grade 12.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter shall enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements for the recommended high school program specified in §74.73 of this title (relating to Recommended High School Program) or the advanced program specified in §74.74 of this title (relating to Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced 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 specified in §74.72 of this title (relating to 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 the Texas Education Code, §28.002(a)(1); or
 - (3) has failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times as determined by the school district.
- (d) If an admission, review, and dismissal committee makes decisions that place a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the minimum high school program.
- (e) To receive a high school diploma, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter must complete the following:
 - (1)

completed by the student before he or she enrolls in a Texas school district may be satisfied through the provisions of §74.23 of this title (relating to Correspondence Courses and Distance Learning) and §74.24 of this title (relating to Credit by Examination) or by completing the course or courses according to the provisions of §74.26 of this title (relating to Award of Credit).

(h) Elective credits in all three graduation programs may be selected from the following:

(1) high school courses not required for graduation that are listed in the following chapters of this title:

- (A) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading);
- (B) Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics);
- (C) Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science);
- (D) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies);
- (E) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English);
- (F) Chapter 115 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health Education);
- (G) Chapter 116 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Physical Education);

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- (3) the student was already enrolled in the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school and transferred to a Texas public school prior to successfully completing the course.
- (l) A district may award credit for a course a student completed without having met the prerequisites if the student completed the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school where there was not a prerequisite.

Source: *The provisions of this §74.71 adopted to be effective May 30, 2012, 37 TexReg 3808.*

§74.72. Minimum High School Program.

- (a) Credits. A student must earn at least 22 credits to complete the Minimum High School Program.
- (b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.
 - (1) English language arts--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of English I, II, and III. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.) The final credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:
 - (A) English IV;
 - (B) Research and Technical Writing;
 - (C) Creative Writing;
 - (D) Practical Writing Skills;
 - (E) Literary Genres;
 - (F) Business English;
 - (G) Journalism;
 - (H) Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition; and
 - (I) AP English Literature and Composition.
 - (2) Mathematics--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of Algebra I and Geometry.
 - (A) The final credit may be Algebra II. A student may not combine a half credit of Algebra II with a half credit from another mathematics course to satisfy the final mathematics credit requirement.
 - (B) The final credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:
 - (i) Precalculus;
 - (ii) Mathematical Models with Applications;
 - (iii) Independent Study in Mathematics;
 - (iv) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;
 - (v) Algebraic Reasoning;
 - (vi) Statistics;
 - (vii) AP Statistics;
 - (viii) AP Calculus AB;

- (i) Athletics;
- (ii) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); and
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- (A) Communication Applications; and
 - (B) Professional Communications.
- (8) Fine arts--one credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:
- (A) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (B) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (C) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (D) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (E) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;
 - (F) Digital Art and Animation; and
 - (G) 3-D Modeling and Animation.
- (c) Elective courses--six and one-half credits. The credits must be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.71(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements). A student may not combine a half credit of a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment with another elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement.
- (d) Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Minimum High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.72 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(4), 28.002, and 28.025.

Source: The provisions of this §74.72 adopted to be effective May 30, 2012, 37 TexReg 3808; amended to be effective August 25, 2013, 38 TexReg 5469; amended to be effective August 25, 2014, 39 TexReg 639; amended to be effective August 24, 2015, 40 TexReg 5329.

§74.73. Recommended High School Program.

- (a) Credits. A student must earn at least 26 credits to complete the Recommended High School Program.
- (b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:
 - (1) English language arts--four credits. The credits must consist of English I, II, III, and IV. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.)
 - (2) Mathematics--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.

- (vii) AP Calculus AB;
- (viii) AP Calculus BC;
- (ix) AP Computer Science;
- (x) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;
- (xi) IB Mathematics Standard Level;
- (xii) IB Mathematics Higher Level;
- (xiii) IB Further Mathematics Standard Level;
- (xiv) Robotics Programming and Design;
- (xv) Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving;
- (xvi) Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science; and
- (xvii)

- (xii) IB Physics;
- (xiii) IB Environmental Systems; and
- (xiv)

education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. Such approval may be granted under the following conditions.

- (I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.
 - (II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.
- (C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:
- (i) Drill Team;
 - (ii) Marching Band; and
 - (iii) Cheerleading.
- (D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- (E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.
- (F) If a student is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a physical education course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner, a modification to a physical education course does not prohibit the student from earning a Recommended High School Program diploma. A student with a physical limitation must

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(7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:

(A) Communication Applications; and (3-15(dAMr)-2(o)5(n)5spej -0 L;1 Tw -31.928 -1.10 Tc 0 Tw 5(es)5.4(

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- (xiv) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course

- (I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.
 - (II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.
- (C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:
- (i) Drill Team;
 - (ii) Marching Band; and
 - (iii) Cheerleading.
- (D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- (E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.
- (F) If a student is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a physical education course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner, a modification to a physical education course does not prohibit the student from earning a Distinguished Achievement Program diploma. A student with a physical limitation must still demonstrate proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills in a physical education course that do not require physical activity.
- (G) A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:
- (i) the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee if the student receives special education services under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 29, Subchapter A;
 - (ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, §794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or
 - (iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.
- (7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:
- (A) Communication Applications; and

Source: The provisions of this §74.74 adopted to be effective May 30, 2012, 37 TexReg 3808; amended to be effective August 25, 2013, 38 TexReg 5469; amended to be effective August 25, 2014, 39 TexReg 639; amended to be effective August 24, 2015, 40 TexReg 5329.