Set Your Course

Secondary Program of Studies Supplement 2014-2015

For Students Entering 9th Grade (for the first time) in 2014-2015 and Thereafter
February, 2014

Dear Parents:

During the 83rd Legislative Session last year, Texas state lawmakers passed House Bill 5 (HB5). HB5 changed graduation requirements for all Texas students who are entering 9th grade in 2014-2015 and thereafter.

RISD’s Board of Trustees adopted a local Graduation Program for RISD that complies with HB5 graduation requirements and offers more flexibility for all students. HB5 established a 22-credit Foundation High School Program (FHSP), endorsements in five areas, and a Distinguished Level of Achievement. Students will have opportunities to enhance the FHSP by adding one or more endorsements and the Distinguished Level of Achievement. Students will be able to earn Performance Acknowledgements as well.

Counselors will meet individually with all ninth grade students and their parents to develop personal graduation plans that reflect personal interests. Counselors will help guide students toward the endorsements that are aligned with their interests. Your participation in this process is critical. Please talk to your student about his/her career interests so that an appropriate pathway can be developed.

The Program of Studies Supplement provides a brief introduction to the new graduation program. In addition to reviewing this supplement, I encourage you to attend an informational parent meeting on your student’s campus or within the feeder pattern. The meetings will provide additional details regarding new graduation requirements and options. Please visit the RISD website at risd.org for additional information. As always, your student’s counselor, teachers, and principal are available for questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kay Waggoner
RISD Superintendent
RISD Graduation Program

When the 83rd Texas Legislature signed House Bill 5 into law, high school graduation plans changed for all students who will be freshmen during the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter. The bill provides more flexibility for high school students to pursue either higher education or a career.

House Bill 5 established a single graduation plan, the Foundation High School Program (FHSP), for all students. In addition, RISD encourages all students to build on the FHSP and complete one or more endorsements and the Distinguished Level of Achievement. Students also can gain Performance Acknowledgements based on state requirements.

Students will need to declare their preferred endorsement areas, in writing, upon entry into 9th grade. Students will be able to change their endorsement at any time.

Further, where appropriate some students will be able to earn credit while in junior high school for courses such as Algebra I, Languages Other Than English, Health and Technology.

*For further information, please refer to the Secondary Program of Studies available at risd.org, or contact your school counselor.*
RISD GRADUATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9th GRADE (for the first time) IN 2014-2015 AND THEREAFTER

TEXAS GRADUATES MUST COMPLETE THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The District expects that all RISD students will fulfill the requirements of the RISD Foundation High School Program, earn an Arts and Humanities Endorsement, and enroll in the courses necessary to earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement.

A student may graduate under the Foundation High School Program without earning an endorsement if after the student’s sophomore year:

- The student and the student’s parent or person standing in parental relation to the student are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
- The student’s parent or person standing in parental relation to the student files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the Texas Education Agency [and available in your school counseling office] allowing the student to graduate under the Foundation High School Program without earning an endorsement. (19 TAC §74.11(b).)

The following is a snapshot of the:

- Foundation High School Program
- Foundation High School Program with one or more Endorsements
- Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgements
FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE (for the first time) IN 2014-2015 AND THEREAFTER

FOUNDATION High School Program - 22 CREDITS

Four credits:
- English 1
- English 2
- English 3
- Advanced English course

Three credits:
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2* (opt out provision)

One credit:
- Physical Education

One credit:
- Fine Arts

Two credits:
- LOTE (same language) or computer programming language

Three credits:
- Biology
- Chemistry* (opt out provision)
- Physics* (opt out provision)

Four credits:
- World Geography/AP Human Geography
- World History* (opt out provision for advanced social studies course)
- U.S. History
- U.S. Government (one-half credit)
- Economics (one-half credit)

One-half credit each:
- Technology*
- Health

Three credits:
- Electives

*This one-half technology credit required for the RISD Foundation High School Program must be from Touch Systems Data Entry; Principles of Business, Marketing and Finance; or Principles of Information Technology.

Opt out Provision allows for flexibility in a student’s course sequence to meet individual needs where appropriate. Students who desire to opt out of certain course requirements should carefully review the implications of the action with their counselor. Course changes could alter the graduation program designation under which the student may be eligible to graduate and could affect eligibility for admission to an institution of higher learning. Students who wish to request to opt out of a course and enroll in an alternate course should submit the “Student/Parent Request to Opt out of Course” form to the student’s counselor. The campus Opt-out Committee will consider the request and the student’s Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be updated accordingly.

See Appendix F for Opt out Request
ENDORSEMENTS

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9th GRADE (for the first time) IN 2014-2015 AND THEREAFTER

FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
with one or more ENDORSEMENTS – 26 CREDITS

There are five endorsements that students may earn in addition to the Foundation High School Graduation Program. Those endorsements are in:

- **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- **Business & Industry**
- **Arts & Humanities**
- **Public Service**
- **Multi-disciplinary Studies**

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- **Four credits:**
  - English 1
  - English 2
  - English 3
  - Advanced English course

- **Four credits:**
  - Algebra 1
  - Geometry
  - Algebra 2* (opt out provision)
  - Additional Math

- **One credit:**
  - Physical Education

- **One credit:**
  - Fine Arts

- **Two credits:**
  - LOTE (same language) or computer programming language

- **Four credits:**
  - Biology
  - Chemistry* (opt out provision)
  - Physics* (opt out provision)
  - Additional lab-based Science

- **Four credits:**
  - World Geography/AP Human Geography
  - World History * (opt out provision for advanced social studies course)
  - U.S. History
  - U.S. Government (one-half credit)
  - Economics (one-half credit)

- **One-half credit each:**
  - Health
  - Technology

- **Five credits:**
  - Electives/Endorsement specific courses

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*This one-half technology credit required for the RISD Foundation High School Program must be from Touch Systems Data Entry; Principles of Business, Marketing and Finance; or Principles of Information Technology.

Underlined courses above reflect differences with the Foundation High School Program (without Endorsements) and the Foundation High School Program Plus One or More Endorsements.

Each incoming freshman will be asked to identify the Endorsement he/she will work toward. Some Endorsements require additional core subject credits.
RISD offers four ways to earn an Arts and Humanities Endorsement:

1. Social Studies
   - five Social Studies credits

2. Language Other Than English (LOTE)
   - four levels in the same language in a LOTE  OR
   - two levels of the same language in a LOTE and two levels of a different language in a LOTE

3. Fine Arts
   - select four courses from one or two of the following disciplines:
     - Art
     - Dance
     - Music
     - Theatre

4. English electives (four credits from below)
   - English 4 (Regular or AP)
   - Humanities
   - Creative Writing (.5 credit)
   - Communication Applications (.5 credit)
   - Independent Study in English (not offered in 2014-2015 school year)
RISD offers three ways to earn a Business and Industry Endorsement:

1. **Academic Sequence**
   - four credits of English electives to include three levels in one of the following areas, and one other English elective credit:
     - Advanced Journalism Newspaper Production
     - Advanced Journalism Yearbook Production
     - Debate

2. **Career and Technology Education (CTE) Sequence**
   - four credits in CTE electives from the clusters listed below:
     - At least two from the same cluster
     - Two advanced level CTE course
     - Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
     - Architecture and Construction
     - Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications
     - Business Management and Administration
     - Finance
     - Hospitality and Tourism
     - Information Technology
     - Manufacturing
     - Marketing
     - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

3. **Combination of Academic, CTE, and Technology Applications credits**
   - four credits from options 1 and 2 above (can also include credit from Web Design)

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RISD offers two ways to earn a Public Services Endorsement:

1. **Academic Sequence**
   - four courses in JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps)

2. **Career and Technology Education (CTE) Sequence**
   - four credits in CTE electives from the clusters listed below
     - At least two from the same cluster
     - Two advanced level CTE course
     - Education and Training
     - Government and Public Administration
     - Health Science
     - Human Services
     - Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
RISD offers 5 ways to earn a STEM Endorsement:

1. **Computer Science Sequence**
   - four credits in Computer Science from the following:
     - Fundamentals of Computer Science
     - Computer Science I
     - Computer Science II
     - Computer Science III
     - AP Computer Science
     - Game Programming and Design
     - Independent Studies in Technology Applications

2. **Mathematics Sequence**
   - three credits in Mathematics by successfully completing Algebra II and two additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite (beyond Algebra 1 and Geometry)

3. **Science Sequence**
   - four credits in Science by successfully completing Chemistry, Physics and 2 additional science courses (beyond Biology)

4. **Career and Technology Education (CTE) Sequence**
   - four credits in CTE electives from the STEM CTE cluster
     - Two advanced level CTE course

5. **Combination of Academic and CTE credits**
   - in addition to Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics, a coherent sequence of three additional credits from not more than two disciplines in numbers 1, 2, 3, and/or 4

   *Algebra II, chemistry, and physics are also required for the STEM Endorsement*

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RISD offers three ways to earn a Multidisciplinary Endorsement:

1. **Foundation subject areas**
   - four courses in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics

2. **Advanced Placement and/or Dual Credit**
   - four AP or Dual Credit courses to include courses selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE, or fine arts

3. **Academic or CTE Sequence**
   - four advanced courses that prepare students to enter the workforce/postsecondary education from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence
DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9th GRADE (for the first time) IN 2014-2015 AND THEREAFTER

FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
with DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT – 26 CREDITS

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing the Foundation Graduation Plan and each of the following:

- Four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- Four credits in science
- The curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement

PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9th GRADE (for the first time) IN 2014-2015 AND THEREAFTER

A student may earn a performance acknowledgement:

- For outstanding performance
  - In a Dual Credit course
    - Complete at least 12 hours of college academic courses (Dual Credit and advanced technical credit courses) with a grade of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
    - Complete an associate degree while in high school
  - In Bilingualism and Biliteracy (see full explanation in Appendix F)
  - On an Advanced Placement test
    - Earn a score of 3 or above on a College Board advanced placement examination
  - On the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or ACT
    - Earn a score on the PSAT that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
    - Achieve the college readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subject tests on the ACT-Plan
    - Earn a score of at least 1250 on the combined critical reading and mathematics portion of the SAT
    - Earn a composite score of 28 on the ACT (excluding the writing subscore)

- For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.
  - Cosmetology Operator License – 17 years of age, high school diploma, successful completion of state licensing exam after successful completion of the following courses:
    - Principles of Human Services
    - Cosmetology 1
    - Cosmetology 2
  - Microsoft Office Specialist certification (MOS Word 2010, MOS Excel 2010 or MOS PowerPoint 2010) upon successful completion of standard test following successful completion of the following courses:
    - Touch Systems Data Entry
    - Business Information Management 1
    - Business Information Management 2
o Educational Aide – 18 years of age, high school diploma and employed by a school district upon successful completion of the following courses:
  ▪ Principles of Education and Training
  ▪ Instructional Practices in Education and Training (Teaching Internship 1)
  ▪ Practicum in Education and Training (Teaching Internship 2) – not necessary for certification

o Autodesk – AutoCAD software certification upon successful completion of standard test after successful completion of the following courses:
  ▪ Architectural Design
  ▪ Advanced Architectural Design
  ▪ Engineering Design and Presentation
  ▪ Advanced Engineering Design and Presentation