

# HB5 Graduation Information

*Dear Parents / Guardians:*

*We have included some helpful information on House Bill 5 and Texas Graduation. We hope this will help answer some of your questions and concerns. If at any time you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor at Brenham High School.*

**BRENHAM  
HIGH  
SCHOOL** 



# Brenham High School Graduation Requirements

for students in the graduating classes of 2015, 2016 or 2017

SUBJECT	MINIMUM PROGRAM ▼ (COMMITTEE APPROVAL ONLY)	RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
ENGLISH	<b>4 Credits:</b> English I, II, III, IV **	<b>4 Credits:</b> English I, II, III, IV	<b>4 Credits:</b> English I, II, III, IV
MATHEMATICS	<b>3 Credits:</b> Algebra I Geometry Math Models or Algebra II	<b>4 Credits:</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Math Elective	<b>4 Credits:</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Math Elective
SCIENCE	<b>2 Credits:</b> IPC Biology	<b>4 Credits:</b> Biology Chemistry Physics Science Electives	<b>4 Credits:</b> Biology Chemistry Physics Science Elective (cannot include IPC or Prin. of Tech.)
SOCIAL STUDIES	<b>4 Credits:</b> World Geography World History U. S. History U.S. Government Economics	<b>4 Credits:</b> World Geography World History U. S. History U.S. Government Economics	<b>4 Credits:</b> World Geography World History U. S. History U.S. Government Economics
HEALTH *	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Health Education or Health Science	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Health Education or Health Science	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Health Education or Health Science
COMMUNICATIONS APPLICATIONS	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Communications Applications	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Communications Applications	<b>1/2 Credit:</b> Communications Applications
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS *	<b>1 Credit:</b> Technology Applications (see page 33)	<b>1 Credit:</b> Technology Applications (see page 33)	<b>1 Credit:</b> Technology Applications (see page 33)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION ***	<b>1 Credit:</b> Physical Education	<b>1 Credit:</b> Physical Education	<b>1 Credit:</b> Physical Education
FINE ARTS	<b>1 Credit:</b> Fine Arts	<b>1 Credit:</b> Fine Arts	<b>1 Credit:</b> Fine Arts
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	---	<b>2 Credits:</b> Foreign Language (same language)	<b>3 Credits:</b> Foreign Language (same language)
ELECTIVES	<b>5 Credits:</b> Electives	<b>4 Credits:</b> Electives	<b>3 Credits:</b> Electives
			4 Advanced Measures ♦
EOC TESTING	PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL STAAR END-OF-COURSE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ON <u>PAGE 21</u>		
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

▼ Requires parent waiver

\*\* Minimum High School Program ONLY - The fourth credit of English may be English IV, Business English, or concurrent enrollment in a college English course

\*\*\* Students may substitute marching band, cheerleading, belles, athletics, and ROTC.

♦ Students must complete all course requirements listed along with completing *three years of the same foreign language*. The student also must achieve any *four* of the advanced measures. NOTE: Under the Distinguished Achievement Program, this leaves 2.5 credits in electives.

\* The Health credit and Technology Applications credit are not a State Graduation Requirement, but is a Brenham High School requirement for graduation.

### ADVANCED MEASURES:

♦ **TEST DATA:** Score three or above on the AP exam from the College Board (Due to AP Test scores being returned in July, all advanced measures due to AP scores must be completed by your Junior year); score four or above on an International Baccalaureate exam; PSAT score must qualify student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., as part of the National Hispanic Scholar and the National Merit Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students. The PSAT score may count as only one advance measure.

♦ **COLLEGE COURSES:** A grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit, including tech prep programs.

♦ **ORIGINAL RESEARCH/PROJECT:** Judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; or related to the required curriculum set forth in the TEKS. May not be used for more than two of the four advanced measures. Includes Science Fair project, see guidelines.

# Brenham High School Graduation Requirements beginning 2014-2015 freshman class



Students who are currently in the graduating classes of 2015, 2016 & 2017 may choose to change their graduation plan to the new **FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PLAN**, or remain on their current graduation plan. Visit with your counselor for more information.

SUBJECT	FOUNDATION HSP	* MINIMUM HSP ▼	* RECOMMENDED HSP	* DISTINGUISHED HSP
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	<b>Four credits:</b> English I English II English III Advanced English course	<b>Four credits:</b> English I English II English III English IV or approved alternate course	<b>Four credits:</b> English I English II English III English IV	<b>Four credits:</b> English I English II English III English IV
MATHEMATICS	<b>Three credits:</b> Algebra I Geometry An advanced math course	<b>Three credits:</b> Algebra I Geometry SBOE approved math course	<b>Four credits:</b> Algebra I Algebra II Geometry An additional math credit	<b>Four credits:</b> Algebra I Algebra II Geometry An additional math credit
SCIENCE	<b>Three credits:</b> Biology IPC or an advanced science course An advanced science course	<b>Two credits:</b> Biology IPC OR Chemistry and Physics (one of the two serves as an academic elective)	<b>Four credits:</b> Biology Chemistry Physics An additional science credit	<b>Four credits:</b> Biology Chemistry Physics An additional science credit
SOCIAL STUDIES	<b>Three credits:</b> U.S. History U.S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World History OR World Geography	<b>Four credits:</b> U.S. History U.S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World History OR World Geography	<b>Four credits:</b> U.S. History U.S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World History World Geography	<b>Four credits:</b> U.S. History U.S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World History World Geography
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	<b>Two credits:</b> In the same language <u>OR</u> <b>Two credits:</b> From Computer Science I, II, and III	-----	<b>Two credits:</b> In the same language	<b>Three credits:</b> In the same language
FINE ARTS	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>
SPEECH	-----	<b>1/2 credit</b>	<b>1/2 credit</b>	<b>1/2 credit</b>
HEALTH *	<b>1/2 credit</b>	<b>1/2 credit</b>	<b>1/2 credit</b>	<b>1/2 credit</b>
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS *	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>	<b>One credit</b>
ELECTIVES	<b>Three and one half credits</b>	<b>Five credits</b>	<b>Four credits</b>	<b>Three credits</b>
EOC TESTING	PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL STAAR END-OF-COURSE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ON <u>PAGE 21</u>			
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

▼ Requires parent waiver

\* Only available for students who entered grade 9 before the 2014-2015 school year.

\* The Health credit and Technology Applications credit are not a State Graduation Requirement, but is a Brenham High School requirement for graduation.

# CTE Endorsements

<b>ENDORSEMENTS</b>	<p>A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum requirements for the endorsement</li> <li>• A total of four credits in mathematics</li> <li>• A total of four credits in science</li> <li>• Two additional elective credits</li> </ul>
<b>STEM</b>	<p>A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum requirements for the endorsement</li> <li>• A total of four credits in mathematics</li> <li>• A total of four credits in science</li> <li>• Two additional elective credits</li> </ul>
<b>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTE courses with a final course from the Agriculture, Food, &amp; Natural Resources; Architecture &amp; Construction; Arts, Audio/Video, Technology &amp; Communications; Business Management &amp; Administration; Finance; Hospitality &amp; Tourism; Information Technology; Manufacturing, Marketing; Transportation, or Distribution &amp; Logistics CTE career cluster</li> <li>• The following English electives: public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism including newspaper and yearbook</li> <li>• Technology Applications</li> <li>• A combination of credits from the categories listed above</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTE courses with a final course from the Education &amp; Training; Health Science, Human Services; or Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career cluster</li> <li>• JROTC</li> </ul>
<b>ARTS AND HUMANITIES</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• The same language in Languages Other Than English</li> <li>• Two levels in each of two language in Languages Other Than English</li> <li>• American Sign Language (ASL)</li> <li>• Courses from one or two categories (art, dance, music, and theater) in fine arts</li> <li>• English electives that are not part of Business and Industry</li> </ul>
<b>MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES</b>	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence</li> <li>• Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics</li> <li>• Four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS WITH ENDORSEMENTS - 26</b>	
<b>DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of four credits in math, including credit in Algebra II</li> <li>• A total of four credits in science</li> <li>• Completion of curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement</li> </ul>
<b>PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For outstanding performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a dual credit course</li> <li>• In bilingualism and biliteracy</li> <li>• On an AP test or IB exam</li> <li>• On the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license</li> </ul>

## House Bill 5 and High School Graduation Requirements

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a school district must ensure that each student, on entering ninth grade, indicates in writing an endorsement that the student intends to earn. A district must permit a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated.

A student may graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year:

- 1) the student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
- 2) the student's parent or person standing in parental relation files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the agency, allowing the student to graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement

A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ⇒ curriculum requirements for the endorsement | ⇒ four credits in mathematics     |
| ⇒ four credits in science                     | ⇒ two additional elective credits |

On page 10 you may see a side by side comparison of the NEW Foundation High School graduation requirements along with the current graduation plans.

### **FOUNDATION ADVANCED COURSES**

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#### **3rd Mathematics Credit**

Mathematical Models with Applications	Algebra II
Mathematical Applications in AFNR (Ag Math)	AP Statistics
Precalculus	AP Calculus

#### **4th English Language Arts Credit**

English IV	AP English Literature & Composition
Creative Writing	Business English

#### **2nd Science Credit**

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)	Principles of Technology
Chemistry	AP Chemistry
Physics	AP Physics 1: Algebra-based

#### **3rd Science Credit**

Chemistry	Physics
AP Biology	AP Chemistry
AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based	AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based
AP Physics C	Advanced Animal Science
Advanced Plant and Soil Science	Pathophysiology
Food Science	Forensic Science
Principles of Technology	Scientific Research and Design (Aquaculture)

### **ENDORSEMENT ADVANCED COURSES**

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#### **4th Math Credit to Earn an Endorsement**

Algebra II	AP Statistics
Precalculus	AP Calculus
*Math Models (for the 2014-2015 school year only)	

#### **4th Science Credit to Earn an Endorsement**

Chemistry	Physics
Aquatic Science	AP Biology
AP Chemistry	AP Physics 1: Algebra-based
AP Physics 2: Algebra-based	AP Physics C
Advanced Animal Science	Advanced Plant and Soil Science
Anatomy and Physiology	Pathophysiology
Food Science	Forensic Science
Principles of Technology	Scientific Research and Design (Aquaculture)

# Foundation High School Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **General**

#### **1. What does the term "required course" mean?**

The term "required course" includes any course for which a student must earn credit to satisfy graduation requirements. Required courses include specific courses listed in the graduation requirements, electives, courses required for the Foundation High School Program under §74.12, and courses required for endorsements under §74.13.

#### **2. May a course satisfy both a foundation and an endorsement requirement?**

Yes. A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under the Foundation High School Program, including an elective requirement.

#### **3. Can AP/IB and dual credit courses satisfy elective credit requirements?**

Yes. A student may earn state elective credit for any course that is included in or aligns with the TEKS for a course identified in TAC, Chapters 110-118, 126-128, and 130 and for which a student has not already earned credit toward a specific course requirement.

#### **4. May a district require 26 credits for graduation for all students?**

Yes. School districts have the authority to establish requirements in addition to what the state requires of students for graduation. This is a local decision.

#### **5. If a specific course can be taught for more than one credit, how will the credit be applied to the new graduation requirements?**

If a student earns more than one credit for a specific course, the credit may be applied to an applicable graduation requirement and any additional credit may be applied to an elective and/or endorsement requirement. For example, if a student earns one and one-half credits for successful completion of AP Chemistry, the first credit could satisfy an advanced science requirement and the additional half credit could satisfy an elective requirement.

#### **6. Can a school district that requires additional credits for graduation substitute those additional required credits for Foundation High School Program requirements?**

A district has the authority to require credits in addition to those credits required by the state, but they cannot substitute courses/credits for those required by the state.

#### **7. If a school district requires a specific course beyond what the state requires, does that increase the total number of credits a student needs to graduate?**

A district has the authority to require credits in addition to those credits required by the state and can choose to increase the total number of credits students are required to earn in order to graduate.

Since a district ultimately decides what courses a student enrolls in, a district also has the authority to require all students to earn credit for a specific course to satisfy an elective requirement. If a district requires a specific course to satisfy an elective requirement, the total number of credits needed to graduate would not be increased.

**8. Are there course sequence requirements under the new graduation program?**

There are not specific course sequence requirements in the new graduation program. However, districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements.

**9. How do prerequisites factor into the new graduation requirements?**

Prerequisites are identified in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each course. Prerequisites are requirements unless they are specifically listed as recommended prerequisites.

**10. Will the agency provide official forms to document students who choose to graduate foundation only without an endorsement?**

Yes. Forms will be available on the TEA website.

**English**

**1. Do districts have the discretion to require English IV as the advanced English course for all students?**

Since a district ultimately decides what courses a student enrolls in, a district also has the authority to require all students to earn credit for a specific course to satisfy the advanced English requirement.

**2. Can a district limit the options available to students to satisfy the advanced English requirement?**

Districts do not have to offer every course option, but if the district does offer a course the SBOE has approved to satisfy an advanced English credit, students may not be denied the credit to satisfy that requirement.

**3. Is there a required sequence of courses for English? For example, could a student take Technical Writing then take English III?**

There is nothing in rule or law that delineates a specific sequence; however, districts should pay close attention to the prerequisites for each of these courses.

**Speech**

**1. Do districts have the discretion to require a speech course for all students?**

Yes. Each school district is responsible for ensuring that students demonstrate proficiency in the speech skills required by §74.11(a)(3). This can be accomplished by requiring a speech course or by other means. This is a local decision.

**2. How are school districts supposed to document a student's demonstrated proficiency of the required speech skills?**

Documentation of a student's demonstrated proficiency must be included on the Academic Achievement Record (AAR). Additional guidance will be provided in the revised Minimum Standards for the AAR.

**3. Can a district use Professional Communications to satisfy the new speech skills requirement?**

Yes, school districts have the authority to use Professional Communications to meet the speech requirement. This is a local district decision.

## **Mathematics**

### **4. Is there still a required sequence for math? For example, does a student have to take Algebra I before taking Math Models with Applications?**

No. However, districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements when scheduling students in math courses. Please note that prerequisites for some of the high school mathematics courses will change when the revised math TEKS are implemented in the 2015-2016 school year.

### **5. Is Algebra II a prerequisite for any other advanced math courses?**

Algebra II is a prerequisite for some, but not all advanced math courses. Districts should pay close attention to the courses that may satisfy an advanced mathematics course under the foundation program and the courses that may satisfy an advanced mathematics course required for a student to earn an endorsement. Additionally, districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements for each advanced mathematics course.

### **6. May Math Models with Applications be offered first in the sequence of math courses offered by a district?**

There is nothing in rule or law that specifically allows or prevents this for the 2014-2015 school year.

However, Algebra I will be a prerequisite for Math Models with Applications when the revised TEKS are implemented in the 2015-2016 school year.

### **7. May Math Models with Applications be offered concurrently with Algebra I or geometry in the sequence of math courses offered?**

There is nothing in rule or law that specifically allows or prevents this for the 2014-2015 school year.

However, Algebra I will be a prerequisite for Math Models with Applications when the revised TEKS are implemented in the 2015-2016 school year. Beginning in 2015-2016, geometry and Math Models with Applications can be taken concurrently, provided the student has successfully completed Algebra I.

### **8. Is Math Models with Applications being phased out?**

No. The administrative rules allow students to use credit earned in Math Models with Applications as an option for the mathematics credit required to earn an endorsement for the 2014-2015 school year only. This course will continue to be an option for students to earn the advanced credit required under the foundation program.

## **Science**

### **1. Does the second science credit have to be taken before the third science credit?**

No. The use of the terms "second" and "third" in the rule is not intended to imply a sequence. However, districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements when scheduling students in science courses.

### **2. Can a student take IPC after chemistry and/or physics?**

There is nothing in rule or law that specifically allows or prevents a specific course sequence. However, districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements for each of these courses.

### **3. How can AP Physics 1 and 2 be used?**

AP Physics 1 may count as a second science credit option or a third science credit option. AP Physics 2 may count as a third science credit option only.



**4. Is there anything that prevents a district from offering a course other than biology to ninth grade students?**

The administrative rules do not prescribe a sequence. Districts should pay close attention to prerequisite requirements when scheduling students in science courses.

**5. What is considered an advanced science course?**

The State Board of Education has identified a list of science courses that may satisfy each of the advanced science courses required for graduation.

**Social Studies**

**1. Do districts have the discretion to require both World Geography and World History for all students?**

Yes. School districts have the authority to establish requirements in addition to what the state requires of students for graduation. This is a local decision.

**2. Can districts place students in a semester of World Geography and a semester of World History to satisfy the combined World History/World Geography requirement?**

No. The SBOE must adopt Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for a combined World History/World Geography course before this will be an option available to students.

**Health and Physical Education**

**1. Do districts have the discretion to require a health course for all students?**

Yes. School districts have the authority to establish requirements in addition to what the state requires of students for graduation. This is a local decision.

**2. Can any TEKS-based course that includes 100 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity satisfy the PE requirement?**

Yes. In accordance with local district policy, the required PE credit may be earned through completion of any TEKS-based course that meets the requirement for 100 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per five-day school week. Please note that such a course cannot be used to satisfy another specific graduation requirement.

**3. Can a school district add a requirement of moderate to vigorous physical activity to any TEKS-based course and award PE credit for that course?**

Yes. A school district may add a requirement for 100 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per five-day school week and award PE credit for that course. Please note that such a course cannot be used to satisfy another specific graduation requirement.

**Languages Other Than English (L T E)**

**1. What courses satisfy the computer programming languages option for the LOTE graduation requirements?**

Computer Science I, 11, and III may satisfy this requirement until September 1, 2016. The SBOE is expected to revisit these options at a future date.

**2. Can CTE computer programming courses satisfy the LOTE requirement?**

No. At this time only Computer Science I, II, and III may satisfy this requirement. The SBOE is expected to revisit these options at a future date.

**Fine Arts**

**1. What is a community-based fine arts program?**

A community-based fine arts program is a fine arts program that provides instruction in all of the TEKS for a high school fine arts course and that is offered outside of the school day and often off-campus.

Examples of community-based fine arts programs include community theatre or dance programs offered at a local dance studio.

**Technology Applications**

**1. May a district continue to require a course such as technology applications for high school graduation that the state no longer requires?**

Yes. School districts have the authority to require beyond what the state requires of students for graduation. This is a local decision. If a district requires a TEKS-based course, such as a technology applications course, that is not required by the state, the course could count toward the state elective requirements.

**2. What will happen with the computer science courses if they are scheduled to "go away" in 2016?**

The computer science courses are not going away. They will continue to be course options for students. These courses are options for satisfying the languages other than English graduation requirement until September 1, 2016. The SBOE is expected to revisit these options at a future date.

# Endorsements

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **General**

#### **1. Does every student have to graduate with an endorsement?**

No. A student may opt to graduate Foundation High School Program only without an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year the student and the student's parent or guardian 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 guardian files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), allowing the student to graduate under the Foundation High School Program without earning an endorsement.

#### **2. Can a student earn more than one endorsement?**

Yes. A district must allow a student to enroll in courses under more than one endorsement before the student's junior year.

#### **3. Can a student change endorsements? When?**

Yes. While a district is not required to offer all endorsements, a district must allow a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated from among the available endorsements.

#### **4. I'm concerned that my small district cannot offer endorsements. What endorsements should a district be able to offer?**

Without altering the courses that a school district is currently required by SBOE rule to offer, a district should be able to offer at least three of the five endorsements.

Multidisciplinary (all districts are required to offer at least four courses in each foundation subject area, to include English IV, Chemistry, and Physics)

Business and Industry (TAC, §74.3(b)(2)(G) requires a district to offer a coherent sequences of courses from at least three CTE career clusters)

STEM (TAC, §74.3(b)(2)(C) requires a district to offer at least six science courses)

#### **5. Will all high schools be required to offer multiple endorsements, even those that focus 100% on STEM/engineering?**

No. Statute requires each school district to make available to high school students courses that allow a student to complete the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement. A school district that offers only one endorsement curriculum must offer the multidisciplinary studies endorsement curriculum.

#### **6. The new graduation rules include the following statement, "This section does not entitle a student to remain enrolled to earn more than 26 credits." Does this mean that a student cannot earn more than 26 credits?**

No. This statement means that a student is not entitled to continue earning credits to earn endorsements indefinitely. A district may permit a student to earn more than 26 credits, but has the authority to deny a student's request to continue earning credits beyond the 26 if the district determines that the student has sufficient credits to graduate with an endorsement.

#### **7. May a course satisfy both a foundation and an endorsement requirement?**

Yes. A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under the Foundation High School Program, including an elective requirement. A student must still earn a total of 26 credits to graduate on the Foundation High School Program with an endorsement.

**8. Do districts have the authority to require Algebra II or other specific courses for all endorsements?**

Yes. School districts have the authority to establish requirements in addition to what the state requires of students for graduation. This is a local decision.

**9. Who decides what constitutes a coherent sequence of courses?**

Each local school district has the authority to determine a coherent sequence of courses and identify courses within that sequence as advanced courses for the purposes of satisfying an endorsement requirement, provided that prerequisites are followed.

**10. In some endorsement options there doesn't seem to be a clear sequence. Will the district determine the sequence in these cases?**

Yes. A school district determines the specific set of courses each student must complete to earn an endorsement, provided that prerequisites are followed and that the set of courses meets the requirements of the options listed for an endorsement in SBOE rule.

**11. Should planning be approached by picking an endorsement and then planning the courses**

necessary to obtain that particular endorsement, or should it be approached by first picking courses and then discovering which endorsement area the sequence fits (at a later time)? This is a local decision.

**12. Are students required to meet each of the options listed under an endorsement area, or they required to only meet one of the options?**

To earn an endorsement a student must complete any specific course requirements and one set of requirements identified in the endorsement rules. For example, to earn a business and industry endorsement, a student must complete the course requirements for CTE or the course requirements for English language arts electives, but not both.

**13. Under the endorsements for which CTE courses are an option, is there a list of "advanced CTE courses that are the third or higher course in a sequence"?**

There is not a list of such courses. A school district may define advanced CTE courses keeping in mind the requirement that the course be the third or higher course in a sequence.

**14. Can Career Preparation be used as the final course in a sequence for an endorsement for which there are CTE course options?**

No. Career Preparation may be used as one of the courses in the coherent sequence, but the final course must come from one of the career clusters listed in the rule.

**15. If a student takes two CTE courses in his/her final semester, each from a different endorsement area, which endorsement would the student earn?**

If a student takes two CTE courses that align with two different endorsement areas, the local school district must determine which course is part of the coherent sequence of courses for that student. The career cluster of that course would determine which endorsement the student earns. This is a local decision.

**STEM**

**1. Can AP Physics I satisfy the physics requirement for the STEM endorsement?**

Yes. College Board Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted as appropriate for required courses.

## **2. Can Principles of Technology satisfy the physics requirement in the STEM endorsement?**

Yes. Principles of Technology addresses all of the TEKS for physics and credit may not be earned for both physics and Principles of Technology to satisfy science credit requirements.

## **3. The fifth option under the STEM endorsement says "a coherent sequence of three additional credits." What does this mean?**

Students may earn a STEM endorsement by successfully completing Algebra II and three additional credits from no more than two of the following categories: the STEM CTE career cluster, computer science courses that may satisfy a STEM endorsement, mathematics courses beyond Algebra II, or science courses. The three additional credits must be a coherent sequence of courses as determined by the local district.

## **4. Which science courses may satisfy the science option under the STEM endorsement?**

The list of science courses that may satisfy a STEM endorsement are identified in TAC §74.13(e)(5).

## **5. Why is there a discrepancy between the number of courses required to earn a math STEM endorsement and the number of courses required to earn a science STEM endorsement?**

There is not a discrepancy in the number of courses. To earn a STEM endorsement in mathematics, a student must successfully complete a total of five courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and two additional math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite. To earn a STEM endorsement in science, a student must successfully complete a total of five courses: biology, chemistry, physics, and two additional science courses.

## **Business and Industry**

If a student on a business and industry endorsement program chooses a computer programming language to meet the foundation program Languages Other Than English (LOTE) requirement, will these courses satisfy both the LOTE requirement and the endorsement requirement under the Information Technology career cluster?

No. The computer programming courses that are part of CTE are not options for satisfying the LOTE requirement. The only courses that are currently approved to satisfy the LOTE requirement are Computer Science I, II, and III. These courses may satisfy the LOTE requirement and may count toward a STEM endorsement, but not a business and industry endorsement. A student must still earn a total of 26 credits to graduate on the Foundation High School Program with an endorsement.

## **Public Services**

May a student seeking a public services endorsement who is taking a sequence of courses in the Human Services career cluster use a course from another career cluster as part of the coherent sequence of courses?

Yes. A coherent sequence of courses may include courses from any CTE career cluster provided that the final course in the sequence is obtained from one of the CTE career clusters identified under the public services endorsement. Districts must determine locally that courses from different career clusters create a coherent sequence of courses.

## **Arts and Humanities**

### **1. Is it permissible to substitute an additional arts and humanities course for the fourth science requirement if the student is pursuing an arts and humanities endorsement?**

A student pursuing an arts and humanities endorsement who has the written permission of the student's parent may substitute an English language arts course, a social studies course, a LOTE course, or a fine arts course for the additional science credit required to earn an endorsement.

**2. Under the arts and humanities endorsement, if a student has taken English IV, can it count as part of the four English elective credits?**

Yes. A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under the Foundation High School Program, including an elective requirement. A student must still earn a total of 26 credits to graduate Foundation High School Program with an endorsement.

**3. How many social studies courses are required for a student to earn an arts and humanities endorsement?**

The social studies option under arts and humanities requires that a student complete five credits in social studies.

**Multidisciplinary Studies**

**Under the multidisciplinary studies endorsement, what courses will satisfy the requirement for "four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation"?**

Each local school district has the authority to identify advanced courses for the purposes of satisfying an endorsement requirement, provided that they meet the definition above.