



**Secondary Academic Handbook  
2013-2014 - Addendum  
GRADUATION UPDATE**



**Graduation Programs – For Students entering grade 9 in 2013-14 or earlier:**

The State Board of Education adopted changes to the high school graduation requirements effective beginning with students who enter grade 9 in the 2012-13 school year. View [Graduation Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9 in 2012-13 and 2013-2014 school years](#).

The district offers these graduation programs listed below. All students entering grade 9 in 2012-13 and 2013-14 are required to enroll in the Recommended Program or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. Permission to enroll in the Minimum Program will be granted only if a written agreement is reached among the student, the student’s parent or person standing in parental relation, and the school counselor or appropriate administrator. In order for a student to take courses under the Minimum Program, the student must be at least 16 years of age; have completed at least two credits each in English language arts, math, science, and social studies courses that are required for graduation; or have failed grade 9 one or more times. [See policy EIF(LEGAL).]

All students must meet the following credit and course requirements for graduation under the programs listed:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Number of credits Minimum Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Recommended Program</b>	<b>Number of credits Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program</b>
English/Language Arts	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	4	4
Science	2 or 3	4	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3 or 4	4	4
Physical Education*	1	1	1
Speech	0.5	0.5	0.5
Language other than English		2	3
Fine Arts	1 (effective for grade 9 in 2010–2011 school year and thereafter)	1	1
Electives**	7.5 credits (prior to 2010–2011) 6.5 credits (2010–2011 and thereafter)	5.5 credits	4.5 credits
Miscellaneous			Completion of 4 Advanced Measures***
<b>TOTAL</b>	22 credits	26 credits	26 credits

\* A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies for the required credit

of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

\*\* State rules prohibit a student from combining a half-credit of a course for which there is an EOC assessment with another half-credit of an elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement. However, the district will allow a student to satisfy a graduation requirement for which there are multiple options with one-half credit of one allowable option and one-half credit of another allowable option, if neither course has an EOC assessment.

\*\*\* A student graduating under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program must also achieve a combination of four of the following advanced measures:

1. An original research project or other project that is related to the required curriculum. These projects must be judged by a panel of professionals or conducted under the direction of a mentor and reported to an appropriate audience. Please note that no more than two of the four advanced measures may be received from this option.
2. Test data where a student receives:
  - a. A score of three or above on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;
  - b. A score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam; or
  - c. A score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT score will count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.
3. College academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical courses, including locally articulated courses, provided the student scores the equivalent of a 3.0 or higher.

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area, along with a description of advanced measures available to students in the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program from the options listed above, may be found in the Academic Handbook.

## Graduation Programs – For Students entering grade 9 in 2014-15 and after:

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature created a new graduation program for students entering grade 9 in 2014-15 and beyond. Preliminary information is being provided below. As TEA updates graduation program information, Crowley ISD will provide additional updates to parents via addendums, website notices, and handouts to students.

Preliminary Curriculum and Graduation Requirements Posted August 23, 2013 for Students beginning 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-2015

Foundation HS Program (22 credits)	Distinguished Level of Achievement (26 credits)	Earning an Endorsement (26 credits)	Performance Acknowledgement
<p><b>SBOE by rule shall require that curriculum requirements for Foundation HS program include a requirement that students successfully complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits English (I, II, III and 1 Advanced English)</li> <li>• 3 credits Math (Algebra I, Geometry, 1 Advanced Math)</li> <li>• 3 credits Science ( Biology, 1 Advanced Science, 1 Integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional Advanced Science)</li> <li>• 3 credits Social Studies (1 US History, ½ Govt., ½ Econ., 1 credit in World Geog. or World Hist.)</li> <li>• 2 credits in same language in a language other than English or by substituting 2 credits in computer programming</li> <li>• 5 credits electives</li> <li>• 1 credit Fine Arts</li> <li>• 1 credit PE</li> </ul> <p>*A student may graduate under the foundation HS program w/o earning an endorsement if, after their <b>10th grade year</b> if student and parent are advised by a school counselor of benefits of graduating with one or more endorsements and student’s parent files with a school counselor written permission.</p>	<p><b>A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation HS program by successfully completing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits in Math, which must include Algebra II and include the courses described in subsection (b-1) (2) (Sec. 28.025. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE; ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECORD)</li> <li>• 4 credits in Science and include the courses described in subsection (b-1) (3)</li> <li>• The remaining curriculum under subsection (b-1); and</li> <li>• The curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement.</li> </ul> <p><b>SBOE shall adopt rules to ensure a student may comply with curriculum requirements under Subsection (b-1) by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• successfully completing an advanced CTE course, including a course that may lead to an industry recognized certificate or an associate degree</li> <li>• successfully completing a dual credit course</li> <li>• successfully completing a combined world history and world geography course developed by SBOE</li> </ul>	<p><b>In adopting rules under Subsection (c-1), the SBOE shall:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. require a student in order to earn any endorsement to successfully complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits Math which must include courses described subsection (b-1) (2)) and an additional advanced math course or an advanced CTE course designated by the SBOE</li> <li>• 4 credits Science which must include courses described subsection (b-1) (3) and an additional advanced science course or an advanced CTE course</li> <li>• 2 credits Electives in addition to the elective credits required under subsection (b-1); and</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. develop additional curriculum requirement for each endorsement with partnerships with educators, business and industry representatives, and shall require school districts to report to the agency the categories of endorsements they are offering.</li> </ol>	<p><b>A student may earn a performance acknowledgement on their diploma and transcript for outstanding performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in a dual credit course</li> <li>• in bilingualism and biliteracy</li> <li>• on a college AP or IB exam</li> <li>• on the PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT or ACT, or</li> <li>• for earning a nationally or internationally recognized industry certification</li> </ul>

**School district shall ensure that each student entering 9th grade indicates in writing an endorsement that the student intends to earn. [Note: students following the Recommended High School Plan with a written graduation course plan currently satisfy this requirement.]**

Endorsements include:

- **STEM** includes courses directly related to science, technology, engineering and advanced math. CISD courses that fit into this endorsement are Math and Science courses, and courses in the following programs of study Computer Science and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.
- **Arts & Humanities** includes courses directly related to political science, world languages, cultural studies, English literature, history, and fine arts. CISD courses for this endorsement consist of English and Social Studies electives, Languages other than English, and Fine Arts courses.
- **Business & Industry** includes courses directly related to database management, information technology, communications, accounting, finance, marketing, graphic design, architecture, construction, welding, logistics, automotive technology, agriculture science, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Courses in CISD fitting into this endorsement include Advance Plant & Soil Science, Advance Animal Science, Aquatic Science, Earth & Space Science, Environmental Systems, AP Science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental), and courses in the following programs of study Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Finance, Marketing, and Information Technology.
- **Public Services** includes courses directly related to health science and occupations, education and training, law enforcement, culinary arts and hospitality. CISD courses that apply to this endorsement consist of Anatomy & Physiology, Food Science, Forensic Science, Medical Microbiology/Pathophysiology, Psychology, AP Psychology, and courses in the following programs of study Education & Training, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Human Services, and Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security.
- **Multidisciplinary Studies** allows a student to select courses from curriculum of each endorsement area, and earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement.