

PLAN YOUR PATH



HOUSE BILL 5 AND YOU

This year's eighth-graders — the Class of 2018 — will be the first to experience a whole new path to graduation under a new law designed to personalize learning. Students will identify career fields that interest them, and will take courses that will prepare them for success in college and the job market. Learn about these new state rules and how they affect your child. Inside, you'll find information about:

- Requirements at all grade levels — attendance, STAAR tests, promotion standards
- HISD's 26-credit graduation plan
- Endorsements
- Performance Acknowledgments
- How to qualify for automatic admission to Texas colleges and universities

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HISD



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIFTH-GRADERS MUST PASS STAAR READING AND MATH TO BE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL.

- Students take grade-level STAAR tests in Reading, Math, Writing, and Science.

Grade 3	Reading and Math
Grade 4	Reading, Math, and Writing
Grade 5	Reading, Math, and Science

- What you can do to help your child:
 - ✓ Schedule parent-teacher conferences on a regular basis
 - ✓ Read with your child and encourage your child to read on his/her own
 - ✓ Make sure your child is in school on time each day

Know the STAAR testing schedule (HoustonISD.org/STAAR) and make sure your child arrives at school on time and well-rested



MIDDLE SCHOOL

EIGHTH-GRADERS MUST PASS STAAR READING AND MATH TO BE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE LEVEL.

- Students take grade-level STAAR tests in Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies.

Grade 6	Reading and Math
Grade 7	Reading, Math, and Writing
Grade 8	Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies

- Some middle school students will also take an EOC — end-of-course exam. Current federal and state requirements make it necessary for middle school students who take Algebra I this year to take both the Algebra I EOC and their grade-level STAAR math test. Also, any eighth-graders who take Biology will take the Biology EOC instead of their grade-level science test.
- Students should see their counselor or administrator or go to www.HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath to download the Plan Your Path graduation guide with step-by-step instructions on how to get on the right path for high school and graduation.
- Students will review their endorsement options with a teacher or school counselor.

- A plan for intervention and other support will be developed for students who are not demonstrating academic success.
- What you can do to help your child:
 - ✓ Maintain a strong relationship with your child — talk frequently about what is going on in school.
 - ✓ Encourage your child to take challenging classes, such as Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) or Pre-International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB) courses.
 - ✓ Make attendance a top priority by setting a daily routine and scheduling appointments outside of school hours

CAREER INTEREST INVENTORY

Middle school students will complete a career interest inventory in an online platform called Naviance. Students may access Naviance at school and from home to develop a career interest profile and explore various career fields and colleges based on their career goals. For more information about Naviance, please contact the counselor/college access coordinator at your child's school.

KEEP INFORMED



Find us on the web at www.HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath



Send us an email at PlanYourPath@HoustonISD.org



Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HoustonISD](https://twitter.com/HoustonISD)



Find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/HoustonISD](https://facebook.com/HoustonISD)

To learn more about House Bill 5 changes, graduation requirements, and how HISD can help your child create a path to college and career success, attend a community meeting in your area. Visit www.HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath for a listing of community meetings.



ENTERING NINTH-GRADERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO PASS FIVE END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS TO GRADUATE.

Algebra I	English I	English II	Biology	U.S. History
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The English I and II exams combine reading and writing into one five-hour test.

FOR NEXT YEAR'S ENTERING NINTH-GRADERS:

Students will enter under the new 26-credit Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan with an Endorsement — and take Algebra II at the appropriate time — which will make them eligible for automatic admission into state universities if they graduate in the top 10% of their class.

HISD'S PRESCRIBED GRADUATION PLAN FOR 2014 - 2015



ENDORSEMENTS

 S.T.E.M. <small>(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)</small>	 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	 ARTS AND HUMANITIES	 PUBLIC SERVICES	 MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
ALGEBRA II*	ALGEBRA II*	ALGEBRA II*	ALGEBRA II*	ALGEBRA II*
ADV. SCIENCE OR CTE SCIENCE	ADV. SCIENCE OR CTE SCIENCE	ADV. SCIENCE OR CTE SCIENCE	ADV. SCIENCE OR CTE SCIENCE	ADV. SCIENCE OR CTE SCIENCE
ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE	ELECTIVE

FOUNDATION

4 ENGLISH ELA 1, 2, 3, ADVANCED ENGLISH	4 SOCIAL STUDIES* 3 SCIENCE 2 FOREIGN LANGUAGE 1 PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 FINE ARTS ½ HEALTH* 3½ ELECTIVES*
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* Pending Board approval

- STEM, Business and Industry, Arts and Humanities, Public Services, and Multidisciplinary endorsements will help create a personalized learning plan in line with a student's career interests and goals. Families will be given a school-by-school breakdown of student options well in advance, to assist them in selecting a high school endorsement and career

pathway that meets the student's career interests and post-secondary goals.

- Students enrolled in high school prior to the 2014 – 2015 school year can elect to graduate under one of the new Foundation Plans if that decision is made during the 2014 – 2015 school year.

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- Tips you can share with high school students:
 - ✓ Keep your grades up — this will affect future opportunities now more than ever before.
 - ✓ Request tutoring if you need it. Your teachers are there to help. If you know your grades are falling behind, catch up while the gap is minimal.
 - ✓ Visit your school’s Go Center — counselors can help you plan next steps after high school.
 - ✓ Take AP, IB, and dual credit courses, as well as AP and IB exams. You can earn credit for college and save money and time later.
 - ✓ Stress the importance of attending school regularly and how it relates to college and future careers.

STUDENTS MAY EARN UP TO FIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED ON DIPLOMAS AND TRANSCRIPTS:

★ DUAL CREDIT COURSES

★ BILINGUALISM AND BILITERACY

★ AP AND IB EXAMS

★ PSAT/SAT/ACT AND/OR ACT-PLAN EXAMS

★ BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR LICENSES

REVIEWING OPTIONS WITH YOUR CHILD:

Entering ninth-graders and their parents will have the opportunity to review the new graduation requirements, endorsement options, and college readiness information with a high school counselor or school administrator. In 2014 – 2015, parents will review and sign a paper copy of the student’s personal graduation plan.

HOUSE BILL 5 AT A GLANCE

What changes have already gone into effect?

- **FEWER TESTS:** Number of EOCs required has been reduced from 15 to 5; district is limited to two benchmark tests (these are designed specifically to prepare students for STAAR) per school year.
- **SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM:** Schools are rated either “Met Standard” or “Improvement Required.”
- **CHANGES TO TUTORING:** Students may not be removed from class for more than 10 percent of the days a course is in session for tutoring or test preparation.
- **15 PERCENT RULE ELIMINATED:** A student’s performance on an EOC will not affect his/her class grade.
- **CLASS RANKING:** Performance on an EOC may not be used to determine class ranking, or as sole basis for admission.
- **CUMULATIVE SCORE REQUIREMENT ELIMINATED**
- **NO RETESTING FOR HIGHER SCORES ON EOCs**
- **ATTENDANCE:** If students are absent for more than 10 percent of the days a class is offered, he/she may be denied a grade or final credit for that course.
- **REPORT CARDS:** If a student’s attendance doesn’t meet requirements, parents will see “NG” on the report card for that course. This means a grade has been blocked. When the course is completed, a grade will be assigned.

What changes are coming up in 2014 – 2015?

- **ENDORSEMENTS FOR ENTERING NINTH-GRADERS:** Students will select an endorsement in line with career interests and goals. In middle school, families will be given a school-by-school guide of which endorsements are offered at which high school.
- **DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT WITH AN ENDORSEMENT:** Entering ninth-graders will be offered this graduation plan, which provides a rigorous core education that will pave the way for higher education and career options.
- **STAAR MODIFIED:** These tests were administered for the last time in 2013 – 2014. New information about plans to include these students in the general assessment program beginning in 2014 – 2015 will be shared with HISD families as soon as it’s available.