



# FISD HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC GUIDE

2011  
2012



Frisco Independent School District  
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# Frisco ISD Mission Statement

**By providing a unique learning environment that maximizes student opportunity and invests in meaningful relationships, the mission of the Frisco Independent School District is to partner with parents and community in developing caring citizens equipped to continue learning and pursue their aspirations.**

## **Belief System**

Education is a shared responsibility of students, school, home and community. With that as an essential principle, we believe that:

Every person can learn.

Each person is ultimately responsible for his/her own learning.

Learning is lifelong and unlimited.

Each person is unique.

Everyone has equal inherent worth and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Everyone needs challenge and encouragement.

Imagination and creativity are vital.

Integrity is essential.

A safe and orderly environment is necessary for learning.

Meaningful relationships have profound lifelong impact.

There is always room for improvement.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Academic Guide has been developed to provide important information for students and their parents. It will assist you in making wise, informed decisions concerning programs and course choices throughout your high school years.

The goal of Frisco Independent School District is to prepare students as thoroughly as possible for the next phase of their lives. Whether the student seeks a university degree or immediate employment in the work force, this guide contains important information to help direct the student in making informed decisions throughout high school. Information on grade classifications, graduation plans and class rank are included in this guide.

## **DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER**

**Frisco Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs, including career and technology programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

*At the time this document went to print the Texas State Board of Education and Texas Education Agency had not made final decisions on all aspects of STAAR/End of Course (EOC) examination implementation. This document will be updated as more information becomes available.*

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## STUDENT INFORMATION

### Classification of Students

The following standards apply to grade classification. Standing is determined at the start of each school year: Classification is for the complete school year.

Core Classes: English I, II, III, IV  
Math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and/or 4th math  
Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and 4th science credit  
Social Studies: World Geography, World History, U.S. History, Gov't/Economics

**Freshman:** A student entering high school for the first time or having fewer than 5 credits.

**To Become A Sophomore:** A student who has earned a minimum of 5 credits with 3 of the 5 earned in core classes will be classified as a sophomore.

- 5 total credits
- 3 credits earned from any of the following courses:
  - English I
  - Algebra I or Geometry if Algebra I was earned in middle school
  - Biology or other eligible 9th grade course (IPC, Physics)
  - World Geography or other required social studies if moved in

**To Become A Junior:** A student who has earned a minimum of 10 credits with 6 of the 10 earned in core classes will be classified as a junior.

- 10 total credits
- 6 credits from any of the following courses:
  - English I, II
  - Algebra I, Geometry, or other required math course (Math Models, Algebra II)
  - Biology, IPC, Chemistry or Physics or other approved science course
  - World Geography, World History, or other required social studies

**To Become A Senior:** A student who has earned a minimum of 15 credits with 9 of the 15 in core classes and who is enrolled in a program that will allow for graduation will be classified as a senior.

- 15 total credits
- 9 credits from any of the following courses:
  - English I, II, III
  - Algebra I, Geometry, or other required math course (Math Models, Algebra II)
  - Biology, IPC, Chemistry, Physics or other approved science course
  - World Geography, World History, U. S. History or other required social studies

Students that are enrolled in the correct number of credits to graduate in the current school year may also be classified as a senior with principal approval.

### Class Loads

In order to qualify as a full time student Frisco ISD students must be enrolled in at least the equivalent of 6 credit classes each semester, 5 of which must be state credits. Since FISD high schools have an eight period schedule, early dismissal permits may be granted for 11th and 12th grade students if they are satisfactorily progressing toward graduation. All 9th and 10th grade students must be enrolled in eight class periods.

### End of Course Exams

In January of 2010 Commissioner Scott announced that TAKS will be replaced with STAAR. In 2011-12, State of Texas assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) replaces TAKS in high schools in the form of End of Course exams. The table below reflects the phase-out of HS TAKS and phase in of EOC assessments. Any student enrolled in the following courses beginning with the freshman of 2011-2012 will be required to take an end of course exam: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World Geography, World History, U.S. History, English 1, English 2, or English 3.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Grade 9	EOC	EOC	EOC	EOC
Grade 10	TAKS	EOC	EOC	EOC
Grade 11	TAKS	TAKS	EOC	EOC
Grade 12	TAKS	TAKS	TAKS	EOC or *TAKS

\*Students who have not met standard for graduation requirements under TAKS from previous graduation cohorts Passing Standard activities for the 15 EOC programs are planned for fall 2011 so that student performance can be reported after the spring 2012 administration.

#### Graduation requirements:

- Students must achieve a cumulative score at least equal to the product of the number of EOC assessments taken in that content area and a scale score that indicates satisfactory performance.
- Cumulative score > n x passing scale score, where n is the number of assessments taken
- A minimum score to be determined by the commissioner must be met in order to count toward the scale score
- If the student retests the highest score is used to determine the cumulative score
- For students on the minimum plan the cumulative score is based on the number of courses taken for which an EOC assessment exits
- Students on the recommended high school program must perform satisfactorily on EOC assessments for Algebra II and English III.
- Students on the distinguished achievement program have to perform satisfactorily on the college readiness component of the EOC assessments for Algebra II and English III.

#### Retaking EOC Assessments:

- If the student does not achieve the minimum score he/she shall retake the assessment.
- If the student does not perform satisfactorily on the college-readiness components for Algebra II and English III they may retake the assessment.
- A student does not have to retake a course to retake an EOC assessment.
- Accelerated instruction to each student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an EOC assessment.

#### Grades:

- A student's score on an EOC assessment will be worth 15% of the student's final grade for that course.
- A decision is pending on the grading of students who repeat a course that requires an End of Course exam. The final decision will be printed in the Student Handbook for 2011-2012.

#### College Readiness:

- College readiness means the level of preparation a student must attain in English language arts and mathematics courses to enroll and succeed, without remediation, in an entry-level general education course for credit in that same content area for a baccalaureate degree or associate degree program (House Bill 3, Section 39.024a)
- College and career readiness standards have been incorporated into the TEKS for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.
- College and career readiness standards will be assessed on the EOC assessments.
- Algebra II and English III EOC assessments will include special purpose questions to measure college readiness.

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/eoc/>

#### **TAKS Exit Level (Senior Class of 2012, 2013, and 2014)**

All students must pass the TAKS exit level test before being issued a diploma. Remediation will be offered to those students who fail any portion of the test. If you are retained in the 9th or 10th grades, you will take the TAKS test for that grade level even though you may have taken and passed that test the previous year.

**Grading System**

Student academic evaluation is achieved through the use of a grading system. An average grade of 70 is required for successful completion of a course. The grading system of the Frisco Independent School District shall be in accordance with the following scale:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79
- F - Below 70

One-half credit may be earned in one semester. Students who fail one semester of a course may:

- a. Take the semester failed when offered to gain a passing grade.
- b. Be permitted to continue the course and by cumulative grade average pass the unit.
- c. If the course is not a required course, the student may choose to take another elective.

Each teacher is required to effectively communicate their grading standards to students and parents. Grade reports are distributed each six weeks, usually on the Friday following the end of the grading period. Progress reports to parents are sent out at three-week intervals. All Fisd secondary schools participate in the Home Access Center, a web based communications system that allows parents and students to obtain information online regarding the student's current grades as well as assignment information. Teachers are required to update their information every two weeks. Teachers may also include additional information as they deem appropriate. Students and parents will be given instructions regarding utilization of this system at the beginning of the year.

**RANK IN CLASS POLICY**

**Beginning with the Class of 2010 (Freshman entering fall of 2006)**

rank in class, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian determination shall be based on a weighted grade point average (GPA) system. Grade points shall be based on semester grades for courses taken in grades 9–12 and shall be computed to three decimal places. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades in the semester prior to graduation shall count as a semester grade for purposes of determining rank, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian.

**Weighted Grades**

All numeric grades shall be converted to a weighted scale (see chart). No grade points shall be awarded for any grade below a 70.

**Valedictorian and Salutatorian Requirements**

Each district high school shall have a valedictorian and salutatorian. Candidates must be 8 semester graduates and in attendance at the

**GPA Exempt Courses (Freshman entering Fall 2006):**

All courses taken during the regular school year shall count toward the GPA, except for the following: aide positions, peer tutoring, SAT-prep classes, high school credits earned in junior high, college credits that are not dual credits, driver's education, credit by examination credits, correspondence school courses, and summer school courses. No credit or grade points shall be assigned for summer abroad courses such as the People To People program.

**Beginning with the class of 2017 (Freshman entering fall of 2013)**

rank in class, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian determination shall be based on a weighted grade point average (GPA) system. Grade points shall be based on semester grades for courses taken in grades 9–12 and courses taken in middle school for high school credit. The GPA shall be computed to three decimal places. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades in the semester prior to graduation shall count as a semester grade for purposes of determining rank, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian.

**GPA Exempt Courses (Freshman entering fall of 2013):**

All courses taken during the regular school year shall count toward the GPA, except for the following: aide positions, peer tutoring, SAT-prep classes, college credits that are not dual credits, driver's education, credit by examination credits, and correspondence school courses. No credit or grade points shall be assigned for summer abroad courses such as the People To People program.

Grade Point	AP/PAP	College Dual Credit	Regular
6.0	100		
5.9	99		
5.8	98		
5.7	97		
5.6	96		
5.5	95	100	
5.4	94	99	
5.3	93	98	
5.2	92	97	
5.1	91	96	
5.0	90	95	100
4.9	89	94	99
4.8	88	93	98
4.7	87	92	97
4.6	86	91	96
4.5	85	90	95
4.4	84	89	94
4.3	83	88	93
4.2	82	87	92
4.1	81	86	91
4.0	80	85	90
3.9	79	84	89
3.8	78	83	88
3.7	77	82	87
3.6	76	81	86
3.5	75	80	85
3.4	74	79	84
3.3	73	78	83
3.2	72	77	82
3.1	71	76	81
3.0	70	75	80
2.9	<70 no points	74	79
2.8		73	78
2.7		72	77
2.6		71	76
2.5		70	75
2.4		<70 no points	74
2.3			73
2.2			72
2.1			71
2.0			70
			<70 no points

awarding high school continuously, commencing with enrollment no later than the first day of the second six-week grading period of the student's junior year through graduation. The valedictorian shall be the eligible graduate with the highest GPA; the salutatorian shall be the eligible graduate with the second highest GPA.

**Ties**

In case of a tie, the tie shall be broken with the following series of tiebreakers: Count the number of AP classes taken (the highest number shall be declared valedictorian). If still tied, add to this count the number of Pre-AP courses taken. If still tied, add to this count the number of honors courses taken. If still tied, average the junior and senior years only.

**Honor Graduates**

Each level of Honor Graduates will be determined by the student's grade point average at the end of the fifth six weeks which will be no lower than 4.0 with no rounding. Three levels of Honor Graduates will be denoted: Summa Cum Laude – Top 10 graduates; Magna Cum Laude – Top 10 percent of graduates; and Cum Laude – Graduates with Grade Point Average of 4.0 or above.

**Transfer Students**

Students transferring to Fisd with credit for honors or advanced classes from other high schools shall receive the weighted grade point average for those classes only if a comparable honors or advanced course was available to students at the high school at the same time the transferring student earned the honors or advanced course credit.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Academic All-Stars**

At the end of the fifth six weeks, students who have been enrolled in at least the minimum number of courses and attained a grade no lower than 90 on any **six weeks grade**, will be designated an "Academic All-Star." A medal will be presented to these students at the awards assembly at the end of the school year. The semester grades for college co-enrollment courses will be used and no points will be added for college co-enrollment, honors or AP courses.

### **Academic Letter Jackets**

FISD recognizes academic achievement through the awarding of Academic Letter Jackets. Juniors and Seniors in FISD may earn this recognition by meeting the following standards:

- The student must earn a cumulative 4.5 or higher weighted grade average for a minimum of 4 semesters of high school course work. Only juniors and seniors are eligible under this criterion.
- All classes that count for class rank will be considered.
- At least 1 of those four semesters must be completed at an FISD high school.
- Students who have less than a 4.5 weighted grade average after 4 semesters, but whose cumulative grade average Improves to a 4.5 or higher at the end of any subsequent semester may apply for the award at the end of that semester.
- Jackets will be ordered during the same time period as athletic letter jackets. Students attaining the necessary standard at the end of the second semester of any year will order their jacket the following year.
- Students may receive only one letter jacket during their high school career.
- Students who believe they are eligible must complete an Application for Academic Letter through the Registrar's Office.

### **Changing Class Schedules**

Students pre-enroll in the spring semester for the upcoming school year, and the master schedule will be based on that information. Students will be able to see and change their course requests through May 13th 2011, by contacting their counselor. Following this deadline, only program changes will be allowed through the second week of each semester.

Pre AP/AP classes are the only classes that may be dropped at the end of the 1st six weeks grading period of a course or at the end of the semester. This change will occur only if the teacher, student and parent concur on the change. If consensus is not achieved, the issue will be referred to the Campus Intervention Team.

### **Community Service Program**

The purpose of the program is to promote volunteer service to the school and community. Students who complete all requirements of the program will be recognized at their graduation ceremony by a colored cord and recognition in the graduation program.

Students wishing to participate should complete 100 hours of service, either individually or as part of a group project. All documented volunteer hours will be accepted including required hours completed for other organizations. The hours must be completed in grades 9-12 (hours completed during the summer following the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will also be accepted).

Students must complete a documentation form located on Family Connection. Hours should be turned in to the registrar's or counselor's office as they are completed but no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the student intends to graduate. Undocumented hours will not be accepted.

### **Community Service Guidelines:**

- Volunteer work done for a non-profit organization geared towards improving the community (Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Frisco Family Services, etc.)
- Volunteer work done as part of a civic, religious, school, charity or community organization geared towards improving the community or school (Rotary Club, NHS, Frisco Family Services, etc.).
- Work performed by a religious organization must be work that could be performed by a non-religious organization.
- Must be completed outside the school day.

### **Examples of Non-Community service:**

- Babysitting for a neighbor without being paid.
- Tutoring your little brother (tutoring others may count if arranged through the NHS or the counseling department).

## **Credit by Exam for Acceleration**

### **High School Credit by Examination - Without Prior Instruction**

High school students who wish to earn credit for a course in which they have had no prior formal instruction may test through credit by exam. Examinations for Grade 9-12 are criterion referenced tests from Texas Tech University, University of Texas, or the testing instruments approved by the Superintendent or designee. Student must demonstrate 90% or higher mastery on the exam in order to earn credit. Courses taken for high school credit will not be computed in class rank. Students are encouraged to review the course study guide on the university website.

**Texas Tech University** [www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview)

**University of Texas** [www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit](http://www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit)

Applications are available from the high school counselor and must be returned to the counselor for processing. Parents should be aware that there are no exceptions available for students to test for acceleration and plan accordingly. Students may test at any time during the testing window, but must be registered by the test application deadline. The application deadline and testing window will be determined at the start of each school year and can be found at : <http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/Testing/FriscoISDOnlineCreditbyExamination-HighSchool.htm>

For students who move to the Frisco community at the start of the school year, every effort will be made to provide an opportunity for the student to test during the second or third week of school, if the course credit is necessary for first semester course scheduling. There is no charge for testing. Students who register for an examination and do not take the examination will be assessed a fine equivalent to the cost of procuring the examination. Exam results will be mailed to the counselor after scoring is completed.

Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit by exam do not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines. See the following link for specific information: <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/hs/faq.pdf>

Students taking a course that has an EOC exam and earning credit toward graduation must take the corresponding EOC exam.

### **Credit by Examination- With Prior Instruction**

Students under certain circumstances may be able to take Credit by Exam for a course in which they have had prior instruction but did not receive credit. This option must be approved by the campus principal (or designee). This option generally applies to students who have not earned credit due to extenuating circumstances such as a family move, illness, etc. To be eligible for a credit by exam, a student must have had prior instruction in the course and earned a grade of 60 or higher in the initial course effort. It also may apply to students who were home schooled or attended a non-accredited private school who need state approved credit. Students who attended school in a foreign country which was taught in a language other than English may also qualify to test that language (French, Spanish, German) with prior instruction. Students are encouraged to review the course objectives provided on the university website. Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit by exam do not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines. See the following link for specific information. <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/hs/faq.pdf>

**Texas Tech University** [www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview)

**University of Texas** [www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit](http://www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit)

Students must demonstrate 70% or higher mastery on the exams. Applications are available from the school counselor. There is a fee of \$30 for each semester exam. Students may test at any time during the testing window, but must be registered by the test application deadline. The application deadline and testing window will be determined at the start of each school year and can be found at : <http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/Testing/FriscoISDOnlineCreditbyExamination-HighSchool.htm>

### **Credit Recovery Guidelines**

The goal of the Frisco ISD Credit Recovery Program is to assist students deficient in credits while at the same time preserving the integrity of the FISD diploma. FISD will insure that every student has the opportunity to acquire the credits necessary to earn a diploma. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of their progress toward a diploma and to take full advantage of the assistance available. Contact the individual campus for additional information.

#### **First year students:**

First year high school students who fail a course may recover credit through the following options:

1. Correspondence
2. Credit by Examination
3. Summer School
4. On-line courses
5. Repeating the class during the school day
6. Credit Recovery class scheduled before or after school either on the home campus or at the Student Opportunity Center.

**Second, third, and fourth year students:**

Second, third, and fourth year students who fail a course will follow the same guidelines as first year students with the added option of a Credit Recovery class scheduled during the school day. Students must first demonstrate effort to recover credit through options 1-6 listed above before enrollment in a school day program will be considered. An exception will be made only in extenuating circumstances (i.e. extended illness, homelessness, teen parent, students new to FISD) as determined by the Campus Intervention Team and the campus principal.

**Fifth year students:**

Fifth year students will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Campus Intervention Team and the principal.

**The following information pertains to all grade levels:**

- Any cost associated with Credit Recovery option outside of the school day will be the responsibility of the student and parent.
- The cost for FISD credit recovery classes offered outside the school day will be \$150 for each 1/2 credit course. Course progress will be checked weekly and good attendance and effort must be evident or the student may be dismissed from the credit recovery class with no refund.
- Transportation to and from the Student Opportunity Center for students attending the SOC credit recovery program full time during the school day will be provided by the district. Parents and student will be responsible for transportation for all other credit recovery classes taken at the Student Opportunity Center.
- No student will be allowed to enroll in a school day Credit Recovery class after April 15.
- Seniors planning to participate in graduation must provide proof of credit earned and recorded at least 5 school days before graduation. All other students must provide proof of credit prior to the start of the following school year in order to receive credit that would result in promotion to the next grade level. Reclassification is only done each year prior to the start of the school.
- At least 50 percent of the credits earned toward a diploma must come from the regular school program. Of the remaining credits, no more than eight may come from credit recovery, with school day credit recovery limited to no more than four credits. An exception will be made only in extenuating circumstances (i.e. extended illness, homelessness, teen parent, students new to FISD) as determined by the Campus Intervention Team and the campus principal.
- During the second semester, a fourth year student failing a course required for graduation will be limited to credit recovery outside of the school day only.
- Students must seek prior approval from appropriate campus staff before enrolling in any of the credit recovery options.
- Students should refer to existing guidelines for details regarding correspondence, credit by exam, summer school or on-line courses.
- Final decisions regarding placement in credit recovery rest with the campus principal.

**Dual-Credit Courses**

Qualified students may be enrolled concurrently with an FISD high school and Collin College. Students in dual credit classes will earn both high school and college credit. Admission requirements include successful completion of the THEA test or proof of exemption from THEA. Students are responsible for paying the tuition, books and fees. Transportation is not provided to or from classes. Student must meet admissions requirements. See counselors for details.

**Early Graduation**

Student interested in early graduation should see their counselor. All high school students who apply to graduate early must complete the requirement for either the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement High School Program unless the student, the student's parent/guardian and a school administrator agree in writing that there are extenuating circumstances or extreme hardships. If an agreement is reached then the student will be allowed to graduate under the Minimum High School Program and will adhere to the requirements outlined in Education Code 28.025(b), (b-6).

A declaration of intent to graduate early must be filed after May 1 of the second year of high school but prior to September 1 of the third year. Requests made after May 1 will be considered for approval by the Superintendent or his designee.

**Course Enrollment - Grade Level Requirements and Prerequisites**

Enrollment is limited by grade levels listed. Students must be classified in the appropriate grade in order to sign up for a course. The prerequisite listed must be met for each course. Please note grade and prerequisites with each course description.

### **Late Arrival or Early Release**

Juniors and seniors who are on track for graduation with regard to both credit and TAKS requirements may sign up for either late arrival or early release. Students who opt for either must have transportation and may not be on campus when they are not scheduled in a class. Any student unable to leave campus immediately after their last class will not be permitted to have early release.

### **On-Line courses through TxVSN (Texas Virtual School Network)**

Beginning with the 9th graders in 2011-12, students may continue attaining high school credit through on-line courses from TxVSN or by taking and passing Credit by Exams (CBE's). Students will have to take the corresponding End of Course Exam and meet all requirements of the state assessment system.

### **Official Transcripts**

A \$1 fee will be charged for each official transcript. If students wish to avoid the \$1 fee, they can supply an addressed and stamped envelope. Unofficial transcripts are free and the number is unlimited.

### **Recommendations for College Preparation**

It is highly recommended that students planning to enter college take all math, science, English and social studies courses possible, whether taking the Recommended Program, Distinguished Achievement Program or the regular course of study. Electives should be selected that will best prepare the student for college work.

### **Residence Requirements for Diploma**

Seniors who do not complete the last semester's work in FISD but desire to receive a diploma from an FISD high school must have prior approval from the Board of Trustees.

### **Sophomore TAKS policy (Senior classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014)**

Any student who does not demonstrate mastery of any part of the Grade 10 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test shall be required to enroll in a course designated to prepare for success on the TAKS Exit Level test each semester until mastery is achieved. These prescribed courses are designed to strengthen knowledge and skills and to enhance the student's opportunity for satisfactory performance as required by the state for graduation. Remediation classes shall be offered each semester of the academic year and for one summer term at no cost to the student.

### **EOC policy (Freshman class of 2011-2012)**

Any student who fails to perform satisfactorily on an end of course (EOC) assessment shall be provided accelerated instruction. More information on these courses will be shared as it becomes available.

### **Special Education**

Students experiencing difficulties in school may be referred for services in special education. Before a student can receive special education and/or related services for the first time, an initial evaluation must be conducted. Decisions regarding the provision of special education services are made by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If a student is determined to be eligible for services in accordance with the Texas Education Agency guidelines, an individualized education plan is developed. Instruction that is designed to meet a student's unique educational needs may be provided in a variety of settings. Instructional settings may include (a) general education classroom with accommodations, (b) general education classroom with support, (c) resource classroom, (d) self-contained classroom, or (e) a separate campus. Related services necessary for the student to benefit from special education may also be provided.

### **Summer School, Correspondence Courses and Credit by Exam**

Students who have failed one or more classes may make up credits lost by attending summer school, taking correspondence courses, or credit by exam. Correspondence courses and credit by exams must be ordered through the counseling office. Correspondence courses do not require previous instruction. To be eligible for a credit by exam, a student must have had prior instruction in the course and earned a grade **greater than 60**. Students who wish to have more information on any of the above should contact their counselor.

### **Top 10% Program (Excluding University of Texas at Austin)**

Top students are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas. Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75th legislature in 1997, students who are in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.\*

To be eligible for automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his/her class at a public or private high school in Texas on the recommended or distinguished diploma program.\*\*
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline. Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline. Application deadlines are FIRM deadlines. A student missing a deadline is usually denied admission.

*\*Students deficient in admission requirements MAY be required to take enrichment courses before being admitted*

*\*\*The law states that class rank shall be based on the end of 11th grade, middle of 12th grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent when the application is completed.*

### **Top 9% to Receive Automatic Admission in 2012-2013 (University of Texas at Austin ONLY)**

The University of Texas at Austin recently reported to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that it will automatically admit students in the top 9% of their high school classes to summer/fall 2012 and to spring 2013; remaining spaces will be filled through holistic review.

### **THEA**

THEA is a state mandated placement test for Texas public colleges and universities. Effective in the fall 1998, the Texas Legislature requires that all first-time college students take the THEA test prior to the first day of college classes. THEA is given six to eight times a year and registration bulletins are available in the guidance center or sign up at [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com). Students may be exempt from THEA with an:

- ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the mathematics and English tests or;
- SAT score of 1070 in critical reading and math combined with a minimum of 500 on each of the mathematical and critical reading tests or;
- TAKS Exit-level score of at least 2200 in math and 2200 in ELA, with a score of 3 or higher on the writing test.

### **TEXAS Grant**

The state legislature established the TEXAS (Towards Excellence, Access and Success) Grant to make sure that well-prepared high school graduates with financial need could go to college. For more information: <http://collegeforalltexans.com/index.cfm?ObjectID=E81912E0-DF96-53C5-8EE1C469C7298F15>. TEXAS Grant eligibility rules may be tightened for 2010. The new rules were not published at the time this catalog went to print.

### **Who can apply? Students who...**

For an initial award

- Are Texas residents
- Have not been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance
- Show financial need
- Estimated EFC (estimated family contribution) less than or equal to \$4,000
- Register for Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement

#### **AND**

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school in Texas not earlier than the 1998-99 school year
- Complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program in high school
- Enroll in a non-profit public college or university within 16 months of graduation from a public or accredited private high school in Texas and
- Have accumulated no more than 30 semester credit hours, excluding those earned for dual or concurrent courses awarded for credit by examination (AP, IB or CLEP)

#### **Or**

- Have earned an associate degree from a public technical, state or community college in Texas and
- Enroll in any public university in Texas no more than 12 months after receiving their associate's degree.

Students entering the program from high school who continue in college and who meet program academic standards can receive awards for up to 150 semester credit hours, until they receive a bachelor's degree, or for five years if enrolled in a 4-year degree plan or six years if enrolled in a 5-year degree plan, whichever comes first.

### **How can you apply?**

You apply for the TEXAS Grant when you complete and submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or other application as required by your college's financial aid office. Funding is limited, so you need to submit your application as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year. The financial aid office at each college and university will determine if TEXAS Grant is part of the aid package that is offered to you.

## **ACT and SAT**

Registration packets for the SAT® and ACT® are available in the guidance center. Students should see their counselor for help in determining which test to take. Students should plan to take their admissions test in the spring of their junior year. The *tentative* test dates for the 2011-2012 school year are:

### **SAT**

October 1  
Nov. 5  
December 3  
January 28  
March 10  
May 5  
June 2

### **ACT**

September 10  
October 22  
December 10  
February 11  
April 14  
June 9

**Cost:** SAT \$47 ACT with Writing \$48 / without Writing \$33

**Register online at:** www.collegeboard.com (SAT®) www.act.org (ACT®)

### **School codes are as follows:**

CHS 442-633 FHS 442-635 LHS 445-579 WHS 442-602  
HHS 442-488 LSHS 442-638

## **PSAT/NMSQT**

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a multiple choice standardized test administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholars Corporation (NMSC). The PSAT will be given on October 12th to all sophomores. Juniors are encouraged to sign up and take the PSAT.

## **SAT and ACT Prep:**

FISD students (grades 9-12) have access to online tutoring through their Family Connection/Naviance system. Students will receive log in instructions from their campus. With both SAT Method and ACT Method, students can listen to a professional tutor explain the concepts and questions that they are struggling with, without reading through pages of intimidating text. Students get immediate feedback and a complete explanation for every practice question. Each student's performance is tracked and strengths and weaknesses are clearly indicated. Counselors and parents can see where students need to focus their study time. Since SAT Method and ACT Method are available on-line, students have access from any Web-enabled computer, making it easy for them to study when it's most convenient.

With SAT Method and/or ACT Method, students can:

- Hear audio explanations of test questions
- Complete full-length practice tests
- Read easy explanations to every question
- Receive valuable test-taking tips
- Access their courses on an unlimited, 24x7 basis, from any Web-enabled computer
- Access strategy guides for each test
- Receive hundreds of practice questions
- Track their strengths on each test
- Take practice quizzes to boost their knowledge

## **PLAN**

The PLAN (ACT's College Readiness Test for 10th graders) is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. As a "pre-ACT" test, PLAN is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT. Sophomores are encouraged to sign up for and take the PLAN (practice ACT).

## **AP Exam Dates**

Not available at time of print.

## **PRE-AP and Advanced Placement Program**

### **What is the Pre-AP/AP® Program?**

The Pre-AP/AP® Program allows students to participate in college preparatory courses and college level courses while still in high school. Secondary schools and colleges cooperate in this program to give students the opportunity to show mastery in college level courses by taking AP exams in May of each school year. With successful completion of an AP exam, many colleges will issue college credit. If a student scores a 3, 4 or 5, FISD will reimburse the registration fee for taking the AP Exam. This gives students an opportunity to receive college credit at no cost.

### What are the advantages of my student taking Pre-AP/AP courses?

The main advantage of taking a Pre-AP/AP® course is better preparation for college. Students who take AP exams may receive college credit while still in high school, saving both time and money. Because the AP curriculum is standardized across the nation, colleges and universities look favorably on students who have completed this course work, as they understand the depth and breadth of these challenging courses. Selected universities may expect to see AP course work on a transcript. Students planning to apply to highly competitive colleges and universities are encouraged to take full advantage of PreAP and AP course offerings.

### Who can enroll in a Pre-AP/AP® course?

Any student can enroll in a Pre-AP or AP® course. Students should consider their grades in prior course work, teacher recommendations and achievement levels on PSAT, PLAN, or other standardized tests when making decisions on the Pre-AP and AP® program. Counselors can help students make informed decisions on the appropriate level course work, but admission is open to any student who chooses to take a Pre-AP or AP® class. **Students are cautioned to choose their classes carefully and to pay attention to their overall class load and extra-curricular load.**

## Pre-AP and AP courses offered at FISD High Schools

### Pre-Advanced Placement

English 1  
English 2  
World Geography  
Biology  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Spanish 2  
Spanish 3  
French 2  
French 3  
German 2  
German 3  
Geometry  
Algebra 2  
Pre-Calculus

### Advanced Placement

English Language and Composition  
English Literature and Composition  
World History  
United States History  
United States Government and Politics  
Macroeconomics  
European History  
Biology  
Human Geography  
Physics B  
Physics C; Mechanics  
Environmental Science  
Spanish Literature  
Spanish Language

Art History  
StudioArt: 2-D Design  
Studio Art: 3-D Design  
Studio Art: Drawing  
Computer Science A  
Chemistry  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Statistics  
Music Theory  
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism  
German Language  
French Language  
Psychology

Pre-AP and AP course availability at each high school will be based on student enrollment numbers in the course.

## GRADUATION PLANS FOR SENIOR CLASS 2012 AND 2013

AREA	MINIMUM PLAN	RECOMMENDED PLAN	DISTINGUISHED PLAN
ENGLISH	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV
MATH	<b>3 Units</b> Including Algebra I and Geometry	<b>4 Units</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 4th Year Math	<b>4 Units</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 4th Year Math
SCIENCE	<b>3 Units</b> Including IPC and Biology I	<b>4 Units</b> IPC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a 4th Science *Senior class 2013 and 2014 students who take IPC must take Physics	<b>4 Units</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics and 4th Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics
FINE ARTS	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design
SPEECH	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications
HEALTH	<b>.5 Units</b>	<b>.5 Units</b>	<b>.5 Units</b>
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	<b>1 Unit</b> BIM I or II, Computer Science I, Digital & Interactive Media, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Web Mastering and Web Technologies	<b>1 Unit</b> BIM I or II, Computer Science I, Digital & Interactive Media, Desktop Publishing, Digital graphics and Animation, Web Mas- tering and Web Technologies	<b>1 Unit</b> BIM I or II, Computer Science I, Digital & Interactive Media, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation, Web Mastering and Web Technologies
Foreign Language	<b>None Required</b>	<b>2 Units</b> of the same language Spanish, German, French or American Sign Language	<b>3 Units</b> of the same language Spanish, German, French or American Sign Language
Physical Education	<b>1.5 Units</b>	<b>1.5 Units</b>	<b>1.5 Units</b>
Electives	<b>6.5 Units</b>	<b>3.5 Units</b>	<b>2.5 Units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 Units</b>	<b>26 Units</b>	<b>26 Units * plus advanced measures</b>

## GRADUATION PLANS FOR SENIOR CLASS 2014 AND BEYOND

AREA	MINIMUM PLAN	RECOMMENDED PLAN	DISTINGUISHED PLAN
ENGLISH	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV	<b>4 Units</b> English I English II English III English IV
MATH	<b>3 Units</b> Including Algebra I and Geometry	<b>4 Units</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 4th Year Math	<b>4 Units</b> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 4th Year Math
SCIENCE	<b>3 Units</b> Including IPC and Biology I	<b>4 Units</b> IPC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a 4th Science *Senior class 2013 and 2014 students who take IPC must take Physics	<b>4 Units</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics and 4th Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics	<b>4 Units</b> World Geography, World History, US History, Government and Economics
FINE ARTS	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design	<b>1 Unit</b> Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, or Elements of Floral Design
SPEECH	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications	<b>.5 Units</b> Communications Applications
HEALTH	<b>.5 Units</b>	<b>.5 Units</b>	<b>.5 Units</b>
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	<b>1 Unit</b> Desktop Publishing, BIM I or II, Computer Science, Digital Graphics and Animation, Web Technologies, Computer Maintenance, Yearbook II, Newspaper II, Video Technology/Broadcast Journalism 1 or 2, Digital Interactive Media	<b>1 Unit</b> Desktop Publishing, BIM I or II, Computer Science, Digital Graphics and Animation, Web Technologies, Computer Maintenance, Yearbook II, Newspaper II, Video Technology/ Broadcast Journalism 1 or 2, Digital Interactive Media	<b>1 Unit</b> Desktop Publishing, BIM I or II, Computer Science, Digital Graphics and Animation, Web Technologies, Computer Maintenance, Yearbook II, Newspaper II, Video Technology/ Broadcast Journalism 1 or 2, Digital Interactive Media
Foreign Language	<b>None Required</b>	<b>2 Units</b> of the same language Spanish, German, French or American Sign Language	<b>3 Units</b> of the same language Spanish, German, French or American Sign Language
Physical Education	<b>1 Unit</b>	<b>1 Unit</b>	<b>1 Unit</b>
Electives	<b>7 Units</b>	<b>4.0 Units</b>	<b>3 Units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 Units</b>	<b>26 Units</b>	<b>26 Units * plus advanced measures</b>

### **Important Information Regarding Graduation Plans:**

- Per state requirements, students are required to complete the recommended Plan or Distinguished Achievement Plan. Students opting for the Minimum Plan will need the permission of their parent, counselor and administrator.
- Algebra I taken in middle school for high school credit will count as one of the four courses required for math.

### **Minimum High School Program (MHSP)**

- A student, the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator must agree in writing signed by each party that the student should be permitted to take courses under the MHSP. A student must also satisfy one of three criteria in order to opt into the MHSP: be at least 16 years of age; have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or have failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times.
- A student who was permitted to take courses under the MHSP prior to the 2009-10 school year may remain in the MHSP.
- 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.

### **Recommended High School Program (RHSP)**

- The phase-out of Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) was removed allowing students on the RHSP to continue to take IPC as one of the science credits if IPC is successfully completed prior to chemistry and physics. Students on the RHSP must complete a biology credit, a chemistry credit, and a physics credit.
- A student who is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a P.E. course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner may still earn a RHSP diploma if the student demonstrates proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills that do not require physical activity as part of a modified P.E. course.

### **Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)**

- Students must complete three credits of the same foreign language
- IPC is not an option for science credit
- Students must complete any four measures from any combination of the three advanced measures listed below:
  - o Original research/project
  - o Test performance on A.P. exams or PSAT
  - o College course work in which a grade of B or higher is earned, including Tech-Prep courses.
- Complete explanations of each of the advanced measures can be obtained from the guidance office.
- A student who is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a P.E. course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner may still earn a DAP diploma if the student demonstrates proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills that do not require physical activity as part of a modified P.E. course.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Beginning with the freshmen class of 2010 and beyond, FISD will require the ½ credit of Health and the 1 credit in a Technology course. Students will obtain 1 credit of Physical Education.

Students who entered high school before 2010 will graduate under the previous requirements of ½ credit of Health, 1 credit of Technology applications, and an additional ½ credit of Physical Education (1.5 total).

Below is a link to correspondence from the Texas Education Agency regarding changes to graduation requirements.

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/stanprog012510.html>

FISD officials feel that the additional requirements are necessary because the Health and Tech Apps TEKS are not addressed in any other subjects and information important to high school students is contained in both courses. The district also believes it is important to transition any graduation requirement changes with the incoming freshman class rather than changing requirements mid-stream with students who have already entered high school. This is how graduation requirements have been handled in the past.

### **TxVSN**

During the 80th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1788 established a state virtual school network to provide online courses for Texas students. House Bill 3646 created a state virtual school allotment to fund courses provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN). The Commissioner is exercising the option to fund seats available for students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 that meet the enrollment priority requirements. Students interested in finding out more about the TxVSN should see their school counselor.

## GRADUATION PLAN WORKSHEET

8th or Summer School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
	1. English I	1. English II	1. English III	1. English IV
	2. Algebra I or Geometry	2. Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II	2. Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	2. 4th Year Math
	3. World Geography	3. World History	3. US History	3. Government & Economics
	4. IPC or Biology	4. Biology, Chemistry or Physics	4. Biology, Chemistry or Physics	4. 4th Science
	5.	5.	5.	5.
	6.	6.	6.	6.
	7.	7.	7.	7.
	8.	8.	8.	8.

\*Senior class 2013 and 2014 students who take IPC must take Physics.

Math: Math Models can only be taken before Algebra II and is not for DAP  
AP Computer Science can be taken as the 4th Math

Science: IPC, if taken on the Recommended Plan, must be taken prior to Chemistry & Physics and is not for DAP  
CTE Forensic Science, CTE Food Science, or CTE Advanced Animal Science can be taken as a 4th Science credit.