

July 3, 2009

To the Administrator Addressed:

Subject: REVISED House Bill (HB) 3 and Graduation Requirements for 2009-2010

With the passage of House Bill (HB) 3, new graduation requirements will take effect on September 1, 2009. These new requirements supersede the graduation requirements in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74.

**Recommended High School Program (RHSP) and Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)**

For the recommended (RHSP) and advanced (DAP) high school programs, the total number of credits required for graduation and the requirement of 4 credits in the 4 foundation areas of mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies/economics did not change. HB 3 changes include:

- providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas of the RHSP by increasing the number of elective credits to 6, requiring 1 credit of physical education, 2 credits of a language other than English (LOTE), and 1 credit of fine arts; and
- providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas in the DAP by increasing the number of elective credits to 5, requiring 1 credit of physical education, 3 credits of LOTE, and 1 credit of fine arts.

**Minimum High School Program**

Permission to graduate under the minimum high school program must be agreed to in writing and signed by the student, student's parent (or other person standing in parental relation to the student), and a school counselor or school administrator.

Under HB 3, to graduate under the minimum high school program, students must:

- be at least 16 years of age;
- have completed 2 credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or
- have failed to be promoted to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade one or more times as determined by the school district.

Students already in the minimum high school program do not have to meet the HB 3 requirements to enter the program, but must be given the choice of opting back into the recommended high school program.

Local districts may continue to adopt additional graduation requirements that go beyond the state requirements for graduation.

Typically, new graduation requirements take effect with the incoming freshman class. However, the flexibility in the new HB 3 graduation requirements impacts all high school students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. All students are able to graduate under the HB 3 high school graduation requirements beginning in the 2009-10 school year, unless the district has adopted additional local requirements.

**Attached are two side-by-side comparison charts: one outlining graduation requirements for students who entered Grade 9 *before* 2007-08 and one reflecting graduation requirements for students who entered Grade 9 *in* 2007-08 or *later*. The State Board of Education will address changes to graduation requirements in 19 TAC Chapter 74 in the upcoming months.**

For further assistance during the transition to implement HB 3 graduation requirements, please contact the Agency's Curriculum Division at (512) 463-9581 or by e-mail at [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

Robert Scott  
Commissioner of Education

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Attachment

Recommended High School Program  
for students who entered Grade 9 **before** 2007-08

	<b>Graduation Requirements Current – 24 credits</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements HB 3 - 24 credits</b>
<b>English Language Arts (4)</b>	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
<b>Social Studies (4)</b>	World Geography	World Geography
	World History	World History
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
<b>Mathematics (3)</b>	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
<b>Science (3)</b>	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology
	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics
<b>Languages other than English (2)</b>	Any two levels in the same language	Any two levels in the same language
<b>Fine Arts (1)</b>	May be satisfied by any course in TAC Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts	May be satisfied by any course in TAC Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts
<b>Physical Education</b>	1½ required	1 required
<b>Speech</b>	½ required	½ required per current SBOE rule, may count as an elective
<b>Technology Applications</b>	1 required	Not required
<b>Health</b>	½ required	Not required
<b>Electives</b>	3 ½ - May be selected from the list of courses specified in TAC §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements	* 6 - May be selected from the list of courses specified in TAC §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements

\*Electives are in addition to the required credits in fine arts, physical education and languages other than English

**Recommended High School Program**  
for students who entered Grade 9 in 2007-08 **or later**

	<b>Graduation Requirements Current – 26 credits</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements HB 3 – 26 credits</b>
<b>English Language Arts (4)</b>	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
<b>Social Studies (4)</b>	World Geography	World Geography
	World History	World History
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
<b>Mathematics (4)</b>	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
	4 <sup>th</sup> SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 <sup>th</sup> SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
<b>Science (4)</b>	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology
	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics
	4 <sup>th</sup> SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 <sup>th</sup> SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
<b>Languages other than English (2)</b>	Any two levels in the same language	Any two levels in the same language
<b>Fine Arts (1)</b>	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts
<b>Physical Education (1)</b>	1½ required	1 required
<b>Speech</b>	½ required	½ required per current SBOE rule, may count as an elective
<b>Technology Applications</b>	1 required	Not required
<b>Health</b>	½ required	Not required
<b>Electives</b>	3 ½ - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements	*6 - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements