

KIS Graduation Requirements

A. Subject Areas Available

Based on New graduation Requirements established by **House Bill 5: Foundation High School Program, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013**, The State Board of Education adopted rules related to the **new Foundation High School Program** in January 2014.

Resources

The following resources provide additional information about **the Foundation High School Program**.

General Overview of Foundation High School Program--Coming Soon

[Financial Aid Application Graduation Requirement](#)

[Graduation Programs Side by Side](#) (PDF, 308KB)

Foundation High School Program FAQs--Coming Soon

[Endorsement FAQs--March 2014](#) (PDF, 854KB)

Performance Acknowledgment FAQs--coming soon

[Text of HB5](#) (outside source)

I. Credit Requirements

Levels subjects	Foundation Plan	FP with Endorsement	Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA)
Language arts	4	4	4
Math	3	4	4
Science	3	4	4
Social studies	4	4	4
Fine Art	1	1	1
Physical education	1	1	1
World Language	2	2	2
Additional required electives	5	7	7
Total	23	27	27

Graduation Credit Requirements

• There are actually 3 different types of Foundation graduation plans:

- 1) **the basic Foundation Plan**, (regular)
- 2) **the Foundation Plan with Endorsement, (FP with E)** and
- 3) **the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA)**

Foundation Plan. The Foundation Plans offer flexible choices for students to prepare for post-secondary opportunities.

- **The only difference** between the Foundation Plan with Endorsement and the DLA Plan is that the DLA requires completion of **Algebra II**.
- The DLA is required to qualify for **automatic college admission** under the Texas Top 10% provisions.
- KIS strongly recommends the DLA Foundation Plan for a student to best prepare for post-secondary opportunities.
- When a student earns the Distinguished Level of Achievement Foundation Plan for graduation, **the DLA accomplishment is announced on the student's diploma and transcript**.
- **Any endorsement, or endorsements**, that a student earns is listed on the student's diploma and transcript.
- When a student earns a Performance Acknowledgement with graduation, the **Performance Acknowledgement** accomplishment is noted on the student's diploma and transcript.
- The Foundation Plans require ***2.0 credits of a Language Other Than English (LOTE)**. For some students, this requirement will be very difficult.
 - If a student demonstrates that he or she is **unlikely to be able to complete the second credit**, the student may substitute **Special Topics in Language and Culture, computer programming languages, or a different language course**.
- A student, who **due to a disability** is unable to complete two credits in the same LOTE language, may substitute:
 - A combination of two credits from English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies, or
 - Two credits in career and technical education or technology applications.
- Students who qualify for **504 or special education** services are eligible for LOTE substitutions, and may still graduate with the DLA or Foundation Plan with Endorsements.
- If a student is significantly disabled and qualifies for modified curriculum courses as determined by the ARD committee, he or she may earn a DLA or Foundation Plan with Endorsement providing none of the endorsement courses incorporate modified curriculum.

II. Detailed Descriptions on Requirements by Subjects

1. English Language Arts

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	4	English I; English II; English III; English IV	4

* FPE and DLA: Pre-AP; AP English classes

<Credit perSubject>

Independent Study In English (0.5 ~ 1) ; Reading I, II, III (0.5 ~ 3); College Readiness and Study Skills (0.5) ; Visual Media Analysis and Production (0.5); Contemporary Media (0.5); Literary Genres (0.5 ~ 1) ; Creative Writing (0.5~1); Research and Technical Writing (0.5 ~ 1); Practical Writing Skills (0.5 ~ 1); Humanities (0.5~2); Public Speaking I, II, III (0.5 ~ 1); Communication Applications (0.5); Oral Interpretation I, II, III (1~3) ; Debate I, II, III (1~ 3) ; Independent Study in Speech (0.5 ~ 1); Journalism (0.5 ~ 1) ; Independent Study in Journalism (0.5~ 1); Advanced Broadcast Journalism I, II, III (0.5 ~ 1) ; Photojournalism (0.5 ~ 1); Advanced Journalism Yearbook I, II, III/ Newspaper I, II, III/ Literary Magazine (0.5 ~ 1).

2. Math

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	3	Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra II; Advanced Math <Algebra II or Math Models>	7
Endorsement & Distinguished	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fourth credit: Precalculus; Independent Study in Mathematics; Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR); AP Statistics; AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Computer Science; IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level; IB Mathematics Higher Level; IB Further Mathematics Standard Level • The additional credit may be selected from the following and may be taken after successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II: Engineering Mathematics (CTE) Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE) Statistics and Risk Management Algebra I, Geometry, & two Advanced Math Courses 	8

<Credit per Subject>

Mathematical Models with Applications (1): Statistics (1); Algebraic Reasoning (1)
Algebra II (0.5~1); Precalculus (0.5~1); Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (0.5~ 1);
Independent Study in Mathematics (0.5~1); Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving (0.5 ~ 1)

3. Science

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	3	Biology (1); Chemistry (1) ; Physics (1); Advanced Science: Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC*) may substitute a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry) or a physics credit (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics) for IPC but must use the other of these two courses as the academic elective credit.	10
Endorsement & Distinguished	4	1) Biology, AP/IB Biology 2) Chemistry, AP/IB Chemistry 3) Physics, Principles of Technology, AP/IB Physics 4) The fourth credit may be selected from Aquatic Science, Astronomy, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Systems, AP Physics B, AP Physics C, AP Environmental Science, AP/IB Biology, AP/IB Chemistry, AP/IB Physics, AP/IB Environmental Systems • The additional credit from the laboratory-based courses and may be taken after successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with physics: Scientific Research and Design (CTE)** Anatomy and Physiology (CTE) Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE) Medical Microbiology (CTE) Pathophysiology (CTE) Advanced Animal Science (CTE) Advanced Biotechnology (CTE) Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE) Food Science (CTE) Forensic Science (CTE) Biology, IPC or an Advanced Science Course, & two Advanced Science Courses (Chemistry and Physics) • Other advanced science courses, including Forensic Science, Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, and AP Environmental Science.	12

*IPC: The International Primary Curriculum; ** CTE: Career and Technical Education

< Credit per Subject>

Biology (1), Chemistry (1), Integrated Physics and Chemistry (1), Physics (1), Aquatic Science, Adopted 2021 (1), Astronomy (1), Earth Systems Science, Adopted (1) Environmental Systems (1), Specialized Topics in Science(1)

4. Social Science

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	4	World Geography (and/or) World History; U.S. History U.S. Govt. (0.5) & Econ (0.5)	14
Endorsement Distinguished	4	Pre-AP, AP, or IB Classes	16

Credit per Subject

United States History Studies Since 1877 (1), United States Government (1),
World History Studies (1), World Geography Studies (1), Psychology (0.5),
Sociology (0.5), Special Topics in Social Studies (0.5),
Social Studies Research Methods (0.5), Social Studies Advanced Studies (0.5)
Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System (0.5), Economics Advanced Studies
(0.5) Personal Financial Literacy (0.5), Personal Financial Literacy and Economics (0.5)
Ethnic Studies: Mexican American Studies (1) Ethnic Studies: African American Studies (1)

5. Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	2	in the same language, computer programming language, or other allowable exceptions. Any two levels in the same language, or Two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, and III.	16
Endorsement & Distinguished	2	Appropriate courses for Substitutions: Special Topics in Language and Culture, or Computer programming languages, or a different language course. * Substitutive option for a student with disability: A combination of two credits from English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies, or Two credits in career and technical education or technology applications. * The determination regarding a student's disability to complete the LOTE credit requirements: The student's ARD committee if the student receives special education services, or The committee established for the student under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	18

<Credit by Subject>

Discovering Languages and Cultures (0.5~1), Special Topics in Language and Culture (1),
American Sign Language, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), and IV (1) A.S, L, Advanced Independent
Study (1), Level I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, (each 1) Seminar in LOTE, Advanced (0.5 ~ 1),

Classical Languages, Level I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII (Each 1), Seminar in Classical Languages,
Advanced (0.5 ~ 1), Advanced Language for Career Applications (1)

6. Physical Education

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	1	Functional Fitness, Team Sports; Athletics, Dance	17
Endorsement Distinguished	1		19

<Credit per Subject?

Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits (1),

Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits (1), Skill-Based Lifetime Activities (1)

Health Education: Health I (0.5), Health II (0.5), Your Health in the Real World (0.5)

7. Fine Arts

Level	Credit	Courses Taken	Total
Foundation	1	Band, Orchestra, Choir, Art, Theater	18
Endorsement Distinguished	1		20

<Credit per Subject>

Art, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1); Dance, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1)

Music, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1); Music Studies (1)

Theatre, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1); Musical Theatre, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1)

Technical Theatre, Level I (1), II (1), III (1), IV (1)

International Baccalaureate (IB) Film Standard Level (2), Higher Level (HL) (2)

Other Elective Options (7 credits)

Bible Theology

Systematic Theology

Israelology Theology

Field Mission (Israel)

Biblical Science

Architectural Design,

Business, Management, Administration

Finance

Marketing,

Biomedical Sciences

Health Science

Computer Science

Engineering

Debate
 Journalism
 Graphic Design,
 Video Production
 Animation
 Orchestra

Band
 Choir
 Music
 Theatre
 Visual Art

Examples: English

Grades Levels	9th	10th	11th	12th
Foundation Plan	English I	English II	English III	English IV
Distinguished Level (DLA)	Pre-AP/IB English I	Pre-AP/IB English II	AP or IB English III	AP or IB English IV
Endorsement Of Foundation P.	Any Class From Above	Any Class From above	Dual Credit English III	Dual Credit English IV

Math

Grades Levels	9th	10th	11th	12th
Foundation Plan	Algebra I Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II	
Distinguished Level (DLA) & Endorsement Of Foundation P.	Pre-AP Geometry Pre-AP Algebra I	AP Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II	AP Algebra 2 Statistics AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus Calculus AB Calculus BC

Social Studies

Grades Levels	9th	10th	11th	12th
Foundation Plan	World Geo.	World History	US History	Government Economics
Distinguished	Pre-AP/IB-Pre	AP World	AP-Psychology	AP-Govern.

Level (DLA) & Endorsement FP.	World Geog.	History AP US History	AP-Economics	US History II
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Science

Grades Levels	9th	10th	11th	12th
Foundation Plan	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Science
Distinguished Level (DLA) & Endorsement FP Of Foundation P.	Pre-AP/IB Biology	Pre-AP/IB Chemistry	AP Physics I IB Science	Science of Choice

III. Foundation Plan with ENDORSEMENTS

House Bill 5 from the 2013 Texas Legislature specified five endorsements as being part of the **DLA Foundation Plan**. Students are required to choose an endorsement by the beginning of the 9th grade, although they are free to change their minds or earn more than one endorsement. There are **five areas** in which a student may earn an endorsement.

Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement

A student may earn a multidisciplinary studies endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements and one of the following options:

- (A) 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, or
- (B) Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and Chemistry and/or Physics, or
- (C) **Four credits in advanced placement (AP)**, International Baccalaureate (IB), or **dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or languages** other than English, or fine arts.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Endorsement

A student may earn a STEM endorsement by completing foundation and endorsement requirements including **Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics** and one of the following options:

- (A) A coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course which includes any course that is the third or higher course in a sequence. The courses may be selected from courses in all CTE career clusters or CTE innovative

courses approved by the Commissioner of Education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the STEM career cluster.

(B) A coherent sequence of four credits in computer science selected from the following: Fundamentals of Computer Science; Computer Science I; Computer Science II; Computer Science III; AP Computer Science; IB Computer Science (Standard Level); IB Computer Science (Higher Level); Discrete Math for Computer Science; Digital Forensics; Game Programming and Design; Mobile Application Development; Robotics Programming and Design; and Independent Studies of Technology Applications.

(C) A total of five credits in math by successfully completing Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and two additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.

(D) A total of five credits in science by successfully completing Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and two additional science courses.

(E) In addition to Algebra II, Chemistry, & Physics, a coherent sequence of three additional credits from no more than two of the areas listed in the above (A), (B), (C), and (D).

- The student must complete Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, AND
- Two additional math credits for which Algebra II is a prerequisite, OR
- Two additional science courses, OR
- **A coherent sequence of four credits in a STEM Academy, such as Engineering or Computer Science.**

Business and Industry Endorsement

A student may earn a business and industry endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements and one of the following options:

(A) A coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course which includes any course that is the third or higher course in a sequence. The courses may be selected from courses in all CTE career clusters or CTE innovative courses approved by the Commissioner of Education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following CTE career clusters: Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Business Management & Administration; Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics; Marketing; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Hospitality & Tourism; and Finance.

(B) Four English elective credits by selecting three levels in one of the following areas: advanced broadcast journalism; advanced journalism – newspaper; advanced journalism – yearbook; public speaking; and debate.

(C) Four technology applications credits from the following: Digital Design & Media Production; Digital Art & Animation; 3-D Modeling & Animation; Digital Communications

in the 21st Century; Digital Video & Audio Design; Web Communications; Web Design; Web Game Development; and Independent Study in Evolving/Emerging Technologies.
(D) A coherent sequence of four credits from (A), (B), or (C).

The student must complete

- Four English elective credits OR • Four technology applications credits OR
- A coherent sequence of four credits in a Business and Industry Academy, such as Marketing or Culinary Arts.

Public Service Endorsement

A student may earn a public service endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements and one of the following options:

(A) A coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course which includes any course that is the third or higher course in a sequence. The courses may be selected from courses in all CTE career clusters or CTE innovative courses approved by the Commissioner of Education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following CTE career clusters: Education & Training; Government & Public Administration; Health Science; and Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security.

(B) Four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

The student must complete

- Four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) OR
- A coherent sequence of four credits in a Public Service Academy, such as Education and Training or Health Sciences.

Arts and Humanities Endorsement

A student may earn an arts and humanities endorsement by completing foundation and general

endorsement requirements and one of the following options:

(A) A total of five social studies credits.

(B) Four levels of the same language in a language other than English.

(C) Two levels of the same language in a language other than English and two levels of a different

language in a language other than English.

(D) Four levels of American sign language.

(E) A coherent sequence of four credits by selecting courses from one or two categories or disciplines in fine arts or innovative courses approved by the Commissioner.

(F) Four English elective credits by selecting from the following: English IV; Independent Study in English; Literary Genres; Creative Writing; Research & Technical Writing;

Humanities; AP English Literature and Composition; IB Language Studies (A1 Higher Level); or Communications Applications.

Career Development

IV. PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

House Bill 5 from the 2013 Texas Legislature specified five types of optional performance acknowledgements as part of the DLA Foundation Plan.

- **Bilingualism and Bi-literacy**
- **Dual Credit**
- **AP or IB**
- **PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT, or ACT**
- **Business or Industry Certification or License**

There are several ways that a student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript.

Bilingualism and Bi-literacy Performance Acknowledgement

A student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in bilingualism and bi-literacy by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with KIS grading policy in two or more languages by:

(1) Completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100, and

(2) Satisfying one of the following: **Completion of a minimum of 3 credits** in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or Demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or **Completion of at least 3 credits in a foundation subject area** course in a language other than English with a minimum of 80 on a scale of 100; or Demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods: A score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or A score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a

higher-level language other than English course; or Performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent.

(3) In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a Performance Acknowledgement in bilingualism and bi-literacy, an English language learner must also have participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program and scored at the Advanced High level on the TELPAS. In Summary, the student must complete all English language arts requirements, maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100, AND

- Completion of 3 LOTE credits, earning at least an 80: OR
- Demonstrated proficiency in LOTE through one of the following methods:
- A score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level LOTE course.
- A score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a LOTE

Dual Credit Performance Acknowledgement

A student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:

- (1) At least 12 hours of college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit as part of the Texas core curriculum, and advanced technical credit courses, including KIS articulated courses, with a grade of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0, or
- (2) An associate degree while in high school.

AP or IB Performance Acknowledgement

A student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance on a College Board advanced placement (AP) test or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam by earning:

- (1) A score of 3 or above on an AP exam, or (2) A score of 4 or above on an IB exam.

PSAT, the ACT-PLAN, the SAT, or the ACT Performance Acknowledgement

A student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance on the PSAT, the ACT-PLAN, the SAT, or the ACT by

- (1) Earning a score on the PSAT 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 of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, or
- (2) Achieving the college readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subtests on the ACT-PLAN exam, or

- (3) Earning a combined reading and mathematics score of **at least 1250 on the SAT**, or
- (4) Earning a composite score on the ACT exam of 28 (excluding the writing sub-score).

Business or Industry Certification or License Performance Acknowledgement

A student may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript for earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license with:

- (1) Performance on an exam or series of exams sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification, or
- (2) Performance on an exam sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession. Nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification shall be defined as an industry validated credential that complies with knowledge and skills standards promulgated by a nationally or internationally recognized business, industry, professional, or governmental entity representing a particular profession or occupation that is issued by or endorsed by: A national or international business, industry, or professional organization, or A state agency or other governmental entity, or A state-based industry association.

Certifications or licensures for performance acknowledgements shall: Be age appropriate for high school students; Represent a student's substantial course of study and/or end-of-program knowledge and skills; Include an industry recognized exam or series of exams, an industry validated skill test, or; demonstrated proficiency through documented, supervised field experience, and; Represent substantial knowledge and multiple skills needed for successful entry into a high skill occupation.

Further Acknowledgement

Personnel Needed in KIS

1. Administrative Areas

Equity & Inclusion; Receptionist, technology, Finance, **Attendance Office; Registration; Schedule Check. International/domestic Admission**

2. Learning Development

Fellow and Testing Coordinator, College Counseling,

8. The institution employs administrative and instructional personnel who **are qualified** in their assigned grade levels, subject areas, and fields who provide instructional guidance and oversee the progress of students within each course and meet all applicable governmental regulations.

End-of-Course Exam Requirement

In addition to meeting graduation credit requirements, students are required to pass five end-of-course (EOC) exams to earn a diploma from a Texas public high school. Those five exams are given when a student takes English I and II, Biology, Algebra I, and U.S. History. A student who fails an EOC exam for no more than two of five courses can still receive a diploma if he or she qualifies to graduate as a result of an individual graduation committee review. **Speech Requirement** To qualify to earn a high school diploma, students must also satisfy the speech requirement by demonstrating proficiency in communication skills identified by the State Board of Education in the graduation requirements. Districts may use a variety of ways to determine how students will complete the speech requirement. **Instruction on Proper Interaction with Peace Officers** Students must receive instruction in proper interaction with police officers at least once before graduation from high school. **Instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)** Students must receive instruction in CPR at least once in grades 7-12 before graduation.

15-Minute Rule

The so-called 15-Minute Rule claims that students are allowed to leave class 15 minutes after the start of the period if the teacher doesn't show up

Top 10% Rule: in-State Tuition

To meet the requirements, you must graduate in the top 10% of your class at a recognized public or private high school in Texas or a high school operated by the U.S.

Department of Defense and be a Texas resident or eligible to pay resident tuition.