

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Attendance & Truancy

QUESTION: How does my student's attendance/truancy affect me as a parent/guardian?

ANSWER: If your student continually misses school based on absences or skips classes, the parent/guardian can face court imposed fines, summoned to truancy court, and potential jail time if this is a continual issue and the judge decides on such punishment.

QUESTION: If my student is 18 years old, can I still be charged for their truancy?

ANSWER: Legally, your student is an adult at 18 and will face all fines, charges, and potential jail time if they do not go to school. However, if you registered the student for school, the courts can decide to punish both the parent/guardian and student even if the student is 18.

QUESTION: Do students lose credits based on attendance?

ANSWER: Yes, state law requires a student to be in school so many minutes in a semester, meeting at least 90% of that semester's attendance, in order to get credit for their classes. IF a student goes below the 90% required attendance rate, they cannot legally be awarded the credit for a class, no matter what grade they have in the class itself.

QUESTION: Can a student make up time so they have a chance to earn credits for attendance?

ANSWER: If a student is between 75%-89% of attendance for the semester, they will be given an opportunity to make up time for attendance. This opportunity is set up by Midlothian High School which will set ALL times, dates, deadlines, and ways in which the student must make up their time.

- If a student does not complete their makeup days, they will not gain credit for their classes.
- If a student makes up their hours/time BUT misses more days afterwards in the same semester, they MUST make up additional time because they will drop back down below the 90% state attendance requirement.

Class Rank & Grade Point Average (GPA)

QUESTION: When are GPA calculations calculated?

ANSWER: GPA begins calculating when your student takes their first course for high school credit, even if taken in middle school, and each grade weighs on the calculation. Better grades, the type of classes taken, all combine together to calculate a GPA.

QUESTION: When does a student's class rank begin to take place?

ANSWER: By a student's 11th grade year, a graduating class begins to take shape in terms of all other students in their own 11th grade year. Student GPAs begin to measure against each other in the same 11th grade class, all of whom are expected to become the graduating class for next school year.

QUESTION: How can I find out the GPA/rank/grades of other students to help me know how much I need to increase my own GPA/rank position?

ANSWER: It is illegal for any school official to give information regarding another student out to anyone other than authorized individuals for that particular student. Never will any information about another student be shared with anyone who does not have the authority to see it.

Class Rank for the Graduating Classes of 2022 and Beyond

For students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year or thereafter, the District shall include in the calculation of class rank only grades earned for high school credit in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies according to TEA Chapter 74 as listed below.

<i>Level</i>	<i>Configuration</i>	<i>Courses: Chapter 74 English, Mathematics, Science, & Social Studies</i>
Advanced	Numerical grade multiplied times 1.15	Eligible AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses; weight is calculated at the end of the semester.
Honors	Numerical grade multiplied times 1.10	Eligible Pre-AP, dual credit courses, and courses locally designated as honors shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses; weight is calculated at the end of the semester.
Regular	Numerical grade multiplied times 1.0	All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Grade Level Classification

QUESTION: How are students classified in a grade level?

ANSWER: Students are classified based on how many credits they have currently in a school year. Age does not change a student's grade level, only credits do.

QUESTION: How many credits does it take to be promoted to the next grade level?

ANSWER: 9th: 0-5.5 credits, 10th: 6-12.5 credits, 11th: 13-18.5 credits, 12th: 19-26+ credits.

QUESTION: How can my student get back lost credits to fix their grade level?

ANSWER: Students are able to do credit recovery in a class Edgenuity period, each day built into their schedule. Because of limited space, this option is reserved for students who are older first and need to catch up on credits. Another opportunity is for students to do summer school to regain a half credit per class completed in a short timeframe.

Texas Graduation Requirements

QUESTION: How many credits does Texas require a student to have to graduate?

ANSWER: Texas requires at least 26 credits to graduate under the Foundation w/ Endorsement Graduation program.

- Under special circumstances, a student is able to opt-out of the endorsement (26) graduation plan and choose to graduate under the Foundation Plan with 22 credits. However, by graduating under the 22 credit plan, a student limits financial aid opportunities and the particular college they want to pursue after high school.

QUESTION: If my student has 26 or more credits, do they automatically get to graduate?

ANSWER: Texas law also requires students to take and pass certain classes in ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Math. A student must also meet Foreign Language, Physical Education, Fine Arts, and Electives requirements. Finally, a student must take and pass all STAAR/EOC tests (5 in total) to meet state testing requirements.

QUESTION: Can students graduate after the age of 18 and a fourth year of high school?

ANSWER: A student may graduate after 18 and a fourth year of high school. However, age does change attendance requirements in terms of how many days a student can miss. Graduation requirements do not change for a student who is older than 18 and/or graduating into a 5th year of high school.

Out of State Students and Texas Credits

QUESTION: What does it mean to be an Out of State student?

ANSWER: School districts that are physically not located in the State of Texas. This could also mean a student lives in Texas, but attends an accredited private school using face to face or online methods of instruction.

QUESTION: What is not considered to be Out of State credit?

ANSWER: Unaccredited schools, curriculum, and/or programs that could be purchased from another state and/or district that are not recognized by the State of Texas as reputable educational sources. Self-created curriculum, programs, and or homeschool/private school that is not approved by the State of Texas Department of Education.

STAAR/ End of Course Exams (EOC) Testing

QUESTION: Can a student graduate without meeting STAAR/EOC testing requirements?

ANSWER: No, a student must meet all STAAR/EOC testing requirements under state law.

QUESTION: How are students chosen to take a STAAR/EOC test?

ANSWER: By law, when a student takes the class/course English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, Biology, and US History, they must also take the corresponding STAAR/EOC test. A student CANNOT take a test until they have taken both semesters of the course listed above.

- Note: a student does NOT have to pass both semesters of a class to take the test, they just must take both semesters of the class.

QUESTION: What happens when a student fails a STAAR/EOC test?

ANSWER: By law, a student will be given multiple opportunities within each school year to retake any/all STAAR/EOC tests they failed. Tests are given to students who must retest in December and June, as well as in the regular months of April and May when first time testers test.

QUESTION: Can I as a parent/guardian/or student 18 or older opt out of STAAR/EOC tests?

ANSWER: No, this has never been an option in the State of Texas. STAAR/EOC tests must be passed to meet graduation requirements and cannot be waived or opted out of unless approved under special circumstances by the state's education department.

- In spring of 2019-2020, when the COVID pandemic began, the Texas Department of Education waived state testing requirements for graduation. This decision was made and approved because of the events at the time and was only for the 2019-2020 school year.