

# Parent Guide to Student Success

In Dallas ISD, every high school student starts their high school journey on the Distinguished Foundation Graduation Plan, opening doors to great jobs and exciting futures!

## Course Credit

A credit is a unit of measure awarded for successful completion of a high school course. To graduate under the **Distinguished Foundation Graduation Plan**, students must earn a minimum of 26 credits in the following areas:

DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT											
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS			GRADE 9 0 to 5.5 credits		GRADE 10 6 or more credits and two full semesters		GRADE 11 12 or more credits and four full semesters		GRADE 12 18 or more credits and five full semesters		
			*Middle School for High School credit courses do not count towards promotion								
English	4 Credits		English I		English II		English III		English IV or an advanced English course		
Mathematics	4 Credits		Algebra I		Geometry		Algebra II		one credit in an advanced math course		
Science	4 Credits		Biology		Chemistry		one credit in an advanced science course		an additional advanced science course		
Social Studies (may depend on endorsement choice)	3 or 4 Credits		World Geography or World History					US History		Government Economics .5 Credits	.5 Credits
LOTE or Computer Programming	2 Credits		◦ 2 credits in the same language or ◦ 2 credits from Computer programming, Languages, including Computer coding								
Physical Education	1 Credit	Fine Arts	1 Credit	Health	.5 Credit	Other Electives	2.5 Credits	Program of Study	4 Credits		
*Course may vary per campus					*Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement						

### Additional Requirements

**End-of-Course Exam Requirement**  
Students are required to pass five end-of-course (EOC) exams.

- English I
- English II
- Biology
- Algebra I
- US History

### Financial Aid

- Complete and submit the FAFSA /TASFA OR
- Submit a signed opt-out form
- Each school has a team to help you complete the financial aid form

### Other Requirements

- Speech
- CPR Instruction
- Peace Officer Interaction
- Attendance (no absenteeism of more than 10%)



### Advanced Placement (AP) Course Options

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college level classes offered in a high school setting. Students who enroll in these courses and make a qualifying score of a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam may be eligible to earn college credit.



### Dual Credit Course Options

Dual credit is a process through which a student may earn high school credit for successfully completing a college course. **Dallas ISD offers several ways for high school students to earn college credit.** For more details, visit the Postsecondary Partnerships and Programs page: <https://www.dallasisd.org/dualcredit>



### Credit Recovery Opportunities

If your child is behind in credits, **Dallas ISD has support options.** High school students have five programs to catch up on credits, and there's one for middle school students. To use these services, parents or students need a referral from their school counselor. Make an appointment with your counselor to get more information and enroll. Contact your school counselor for details.

# Dallas ISD Creates Opportunities: Paths to Prosperity & Economic Mobility

## Career and Technical Education



**Your child can secure a job that can pay up to \$55,000 right after high school graduation!**



Your child can earn industry certifications such as QuickBooks, Microsoft Office Excel Expert, Certified EKG and Phlebotomy, CompTIA A+, and ASE, just to name a few.

Your child can earn paid summer internships with companies such as Capital One, Parkland Health, Verizon, Junior Achievement, and Esposure, and many more.

For more information, visit <https://www.dallasisd.org/cte> or contact your child's counselor for further information.

## P-TECH & Early College Programs



**Your child can earn an associate degree or up to 60 college credits for free while enrolled in high school; a potential savings of thousands of dollars.**



A top priority for the Dallas ISD is to expand college opportunities for its students at no cost to parents. Partnerships between Dallas ISD high schools and Texas colleges and universities have enabled high school students to earn college credits before graduating from high school. Dallas ISD's P-TECH/Early College campuses are making college accessible to more District students than ever!

For more information, visit [dallasisd.org/ptechearlycollege](https://dallasisd.org/ptechearlycollege) or contact your child's counselor for further information.

## Extra-Curricular Programs



**Did you know extra-curricular activities are a valuable investment in your students future?**

Students who participate in activities outside of their studies tend to have higher grades, better exam scores, and more positive educational experiences. Ask your school counselor for details about extra-curricular programs.

## Best Practices

**Support  
Your  
Student's  
Success**

Good attendance is important for your child's success. Being late or missing a lot of school can hurt their learning. Talk to the school to learn the rules about attendance. Remember, showing up matters!

Parents can help their kids do better in school by getting involved in their education.

- Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account to check grades, assignments, and attendance.
- Work with school staff like counselors, teachers, and principals.
- Go to school events.