

**FOUNDATION**  
22 Credits

- 4 credits English – ELA I, II, III, one credit in an advanced English course
- 3 credits Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, one credit in an advanced math course
- 3 credits Science – one credit in Biology, one credit from a laboratory- based course such as IPC, Chemistry, or Physics, and one additional credit from advanced science courses
- 3 credits Social Studies – World Geography or World History, US History, Government, Economics or Personal Financial Literacy and Economics<sup>1</sup>
- 2 credits LOTE or Computer Programming
- 1 credit Physical Education
  - Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits
  - Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
  - Skill-Based Lifetime Activities
- 1 credit Fine Arts
- .5 credit Health
- 4.5 credits in Electives

**FOUNDATION + ENDORSEMENTS**  
26 Credits

- 4 credits English – ELA I, II, III, one credit in an advanced English course
- 4 credits Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, two credits in an advanced math course
- 4 credits Science – one credit in Biology, one credit from a laboratory- based course such as IPC, Chemistry, or Physics, and two additional credits from advanced science courses
- 3 credits Social Studies – World Geography or World History, US History, Government, Economics or Personal Financial Literacy and Economics<sup>1</sup>
- 2 credits LOTE or Computer Programming
- 1 credit Physical Education
  - Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits
  - Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
  - Skill-Based Lifetime Activities
- 1 credit Fine Arts
- .5 credit Health
- Minimum 4 credits in Endorsement Area<sup>2</sup>
- 2.5 credits in Electives

Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement

**DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT**  
26 Credits \*

- 4 credits English – ELA I, II, III, one credit in an advanced English course
- 4 credits Mathematics – Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, one credit in an advanced math course
- 4 credits Science – one credit in Biology, one credit from a laboratory- based course such as IPC, Chemistry, or Physics, and two additional credits from advanced science courses
- 3 credits Social Studies –World Geography or World History, US History, Government, Economics or Personal Financial Literacy and Economics<sup>1</sup>
- 2 credits LOTE or Computer Programming
- 1 credit Physical Education
  - Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits
  - Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
  - Skill-Based Lifetime Activities
- 1 credit Fine Arts
- .5 credit Health
- Minimum 4 credits in Endorsement Area<sup>2</sup>
- 2.5 credits in Electives

Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement

\*Default Graduation Plan in Dallas ISD

**REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION**

**State Assessments:**

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

**Financial Aid:**

- Complete and submit the FAFSA or TASFA
- Or submit a signed opt-out form

**Other Requirements:**

- |        |                 |                           |                                        |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Speech | CPR Instruction | Peace Officer Interaction | Direct Admission Election <sup>3</sup> |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|

**PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Outstanding Performance:**

- 12 hours Dual Credit (3.0 or higher)
- Associate degree while in high school
- Bilingualism/Biliteracy
- College Board AP Exam Score of 3 or higher, or IB Exam Score of 4 or higher
- Outstanding performance on PSAT, PreACT, SAT, ACT, or CLT

**Certification:** nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certificate or license

\*\* Students receiving Special Education services and/or their parents/guardians should consult with the campus Special Education Coordinator regarding graduation plan options.  
<sup>1</sup> Students entering Grade 9 in 2026–2027 or later must complete the following Social Studies courses: World Geography, World History, or Foundations of Economics; U.S. History; Government; and Personal Financial Literacy.  
<sup>2</sup> Some endorsement areas require additional Math, Science, and/or English credits beyond the graduation requirements listed above. See page 2 for specific course options by endorsement area.  
<sup>3</sup> Direct Admissions Election is required beginning 2026-2027. Students elect to share college admission data via My Texas Future, or opt out with a signed form.

HB5 Endorsement Pathways

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math

Students can earn a STEM endorsement by selecting and completing the requirements from any of these 4 options:

**Note: Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics (or Physics for Engineering) are required for the STEM endorsement.**

Option 1: CTE Pathways

Students become a CTE completer in one of the following programs of study:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Civil Engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Foundations
- Geospatial Engineering and Land Surveying
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Networking Systems
- Nursing Science
- Programming and Software Development
- Renewable Energy
- Robotics and Automation Technology
- Web Development

See Dallas ISD's CTE Career Clusters for the full list of approved programs: [link](#)

Option 2: Math

Students take two more math courses beyond Algebra II (courses that require Algebra II as a prerequisite).

- Pre-Calculus
- Advanced Quantitative Reasoning
- Independent Study in Mathematics
- Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving
- Statistics
- A comparable AP math course that does not count for another credit required for graduation
- AP Computer Science A
- IB Computer Science Higher Level
- Engineering Mathematics
- Statistics and Business Decision Making
- Mathematics for Medical Professionals

Option 3: Science

Students take two more science courses beyond Chemistry and Physics.

- Aquatic Science
- Astronomy
- Earth Systems Science
- Environmental Systems
- Specialized Topics in Science
- Advanced Animal Science
- Advanced Plant and Soil Science
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Microbiology
- Pathophysiology
- Food Science
- Forensic Science
- Biotechnology I or II
- Physics for Engineering
- Scientific Research and Design
- Engineering Design and Problem Solving
- Engineering Science
- A comparable AP or IB science course not already counted toward another requirement

Option 4: Combination

Students take one additional math course and one additional science course, on top of the required Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics. The math course has to require Algebra II as a prerequisite, and the science course must come from the same list used in Option 3.

Business & Industry

Students can earn a Business & Industry endorsement by choosing one of these 3 options.

Option 1: CTE Pathways

Students complete a CTE program of study in one of the business and industry areas, such as:

- Accounting and Financial Services
- Business Management
- Construction and Trades (Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Masonry, Plumbing, Welding)
- Culinary Arts
- Cosmetology
- Entrepreneurship
- Information Technology Support and Services
- Marketing and Sales
- Real Estate

See Dallas ISD's CTE Career Clusters for the full list of approved programs: [link](#)

Option 2: STEM-Adjacent CTE Pathways

If a student hasn't met the math and science requirements for the STEM endorsement, they can still earn Business & Industry by completing a CTE program of study in one of these areas:

- Civil Engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Foundations
- Geospatial Engineering and Land Surveying
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Networking Systems
- Programming and Software Development
- Renewable Energy
- Robotics and Automation Technology
- Web Development

Option 3: English Electives

Students earn four English credits, with three of those credits coming from levels within one of these areas:

- Public Speaking
- Debate
- Advanced Broadcast Journalism
- Advanced Journalism: Newspaper
- Advanced Journalism: Yearbook
- Advanced Journalism: Literary Magazine

Public Services

Students earn this endorsement by becoming a CTE completer in an approved program of study, or by completing JROTC. Choose one of these 2 options.

Option 1: CTE Pathways

Students complete a CTE program of study in one of the public services areas:

- Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services
- Early Learning
- Exercise Science, Wellness, and Restoration
- Family and Community Services
- Fire Science
- Government and Public Administration
- Health and Wellness
- Health Informatics
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Studies
- Teaching and Training

Students can also earn this endorsement through Biomedical Science or Nursing Science, but only if they haven't already met the math and science requirements for the STEM endorsement.

See Dallas ISD's CTE Career Clusters for the full list of approved programs: [link](#)

Option 2: JROTC

Students complete four credits in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

Arts & Humanities

Students can earn an Arts & Humanities endorsement by choosing one of these 5 options.

Option 1: Social Studies

Students earn five social studies credits.

Option 2: World Languages

Students complete four levels of the same language other than English.

OR

Students take two levels of one language other than English AND two levels of a different language other than English (two levels in each of two different languages for 4 credits).

Option 3: American Sign Language

Students complete four levels of American Sign Language.

Option 4: Fine Arts

Students earn four credits in the same fine arts area.

OR

Students earn two credits in one fine arts area AND two credits in a different fine arts area (two credits in each of two different fine arts areas for 4 credits).

Option 5: English Literature

Students earn four English credits, chosen from:

- English IV
- Independent Study in English
- Literary Genres
- Creative Writing
- Research and Technical Writing
- Humanities
- Communication Applications
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP English Language and Composition
- IB Language Studies A: Language and Literature (Standard or Higher Level)
- IB Language Studies A: Literature (Standard or Higher Level)
- IB Literature and Performance (Standard Level)

Multidisciplinary Studies

Students can earn a Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement by choosing one of these 3 options.

Option 1: Preparation for Workforce

Students complete four advanced courses that prepare them to enter the workforce or postsecondary education without needing remediation. These courses can come from one endorsement area, or be mixed across areas that aren't part of a coherent sequence.

Option 2: Four by Four

Students earn four credits in each of the four core subject areas, English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, including Chemistry and/or Physics, and English IV or a comparable AP or IB English course.

Option 3: Advanced Courses

Students complete four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit courses, chosen from English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, Economics, Languages other than English, or Fine Arts.

Recommendation:

To strengthen their college readiness, students are encouraged to earn four credits in each of the four core content areas, beyond the minimum graduation requirements, and pursue more than one endorsement. Students should meet with their counselor to identify any additional endorsements they wish to pursue before their junior year to ensure they have sufficient time to meet the requirements and keep their postsecondary options open.