

July 20, 2009

New Graduation Requirements Announced by the State Impact on Student Schedules

The Dickinson Independent School District is encouraging students to stay with their Four-Year Graduation Plans and course schedules for the 2009-2010 school year despite last-minute changes the legislature made to the State graduation requirements during the 81st Legislature. It is important to note, the courses students have already taken, or are currently scheduled to take in the 2009-2010 school year, still count toward the 26 credits required for graduation and are required by many colleges.

On June 26, 2009 school districts in Texas were notified by the Texas Education Agency that new graduation requirements will go into effect immediately. An update was received on July 3. This notification happened well after parents and students selected classes for the 2009-2010 school year and well after the district made staffing arrangements based on those schedules. Traditionally, the State will phase in new requirements with the next group of incoming freshmen. The State did not use this proven method of implementation when it passed House Bill 3 (HB3).

House Bill 3 provides additional flexibility in the enrichment (elective) areas for students on track to graduate under the Recommended High School Program. The following is information which impacts all high school students enrolled in DISD in 2009-2010:

Requirements Prior to HB 3	Requirements After HB 3
Physical Education (1 ½) Credit	Physical Education (1) Credit
Speech (1/2) Credit	Speech (1/2) Credit * <i>This may be waived by the Texas Education Agency entirely</i>
Technology Applications (1) Credit	Technology Applications: No Longer Required
Health (1/2) Credit	Health: No Longer Required
Electives (2 ½) Credits Distinguished	Approved Electives (5) Credits

DHS has been staffed for 2009-2010 based on student schedules created last spring. We encourage students to continue with their pre-enrolled schedule since the courses are all worthwhile and offer students knowledge and skills necessary to continue their education or to enter the workforce. ***The state may no longer require the courses, but some colleges and universities do, especially technology applications courses.*** Most seniors are on track to graduate and the courses they selected last spring are still valid.

In August, counselors will review all student schedules to ensure they have the classes needed, including those affected by the changes by HB 3. Again, courses already taken by students or courses scheduled for the 2009-2010 school year will still count as required or elective courses toward graduation.

We expect further clarification from the State within the next few weeks, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. Please watch our website www.dickinsonisd.org for updated information.

In conclusion:

- HB 3 allows students more electives by eliminating health, technology applications, ½ credit of physical education and possibly speech as required courses.
- DISD encourages students to continue with their pre-enrollment schedules for the 2009-10 school year due to the late notice of the graduation plan changes.
- Courses no longer required by the state may be requirements for college or post-secondary program entry (please check college/post-secondary entry requirements).
- Courses already taken prior to HB 3 changes will count toward student graduation plans.

HB 3 Graduation Credit Requirements 2009-2010

Discipline	Minimum HSP	Recommended HSP	Distinguished Achievement Program*
English Language Arts ♦	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English I, II, III, and IV. • English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency. • The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English IV, ▪ Research/Technical Writing, ▪ Creative/Imaginative Writing, ▪ Practical Writing Skills, ▪ Literary Genres, ▪ Business Communication, or ▪ Journalism 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English I, II, III, and IV. • English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency. 	<p>Four credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English I, II, III, and IV. • English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency.
Mathematics ♦	<p>Three credits to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I and • Geometry. 	<p>Four credits. Three of the credits must be Alg. I, Alg. II, and Geometry. The fourth credit may be selected from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Models with Applications • Precalculus • Independent Study in Mathematics • Advanced Placement Statistics • Advanced Placement Calculus AB • Advanced Placement Calculus BC • IB Mathematical Studies • IB Mathematics Standard Level • IB Mathematics Higher Level • IB Advanced Mathematics Standard Level • AP Computer Science • Concurrent Enrollment in College Courses <p>For students who select Mathematical Models with Applications, Algebra II is their fourth or final course. They <u>may not</u> take Mathematical Models with Applications <u>after</u> taking Algebra II. The intent of the rule is that all students should have a rigorous math course in their senior year; however, students <u>may continue</u> to take mathematics courses at the middle school and receive high school credit.</p>	<p>Four credits, which must consist of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry and an additional SBOE-approved mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precalculus • Independent Study in Mathematics (for example, when used to offer Calculus) • Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics • Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB • Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC • IB Mathematical Studies Subsidiary Level • IB Mathematical Methods Subsidiary Level • IB Mathematics Higher Level • IB Advanced Mathematics Subsidiary Level • Concurrent Enrollment in College Courses
Science ♦	<p>Two credits to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology and • Integrated Physics and Chemistry. <p>May substitute Chemistry or Physics for IPC but must use the other as academic elective credit.</p>	<p>Four credits, one of which must be Biology (and /or AP/IB Biology), and three of which are selected from a list of options that will include Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) until SY 2012-2013. IPC cannot be taken as the final or fourth year of science, but must be taken before the senior year of high school. When IPC is phased out, all students will select one credit from Biology, AP</p>	<p>Four credits, which must consist of a biology credit (Biology, Advanced Placement (AP) Biology, or International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology), a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), a physics credit (Physics, AP Physics, or IB Physics, and not including Principles of Technology), and an additional approved laboratory-based science course. In addition to a</p>

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* Distinguished Achievement Program requirements also include student achievement of four advanced measures.

		<p>Biology, or IB Biology; one credit from Chemistry, IB Chemistry, or AP Chemistry; one credit from Physics, AP Physics, or IB Physics, or Principles of Technology I; and a fourth credit from the courses listed in 19 TAC 112 as approved for science credit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Astronomy • Aquatic Science • Environmental Systems • Earth and Space Science • Advanced Placement Biology • Advanced Placement Chemistry • Advanced Placement Physics B • Advanced Placement Physics C • Advanced Placement Environmental Science • International Baccalaureate Biology • International Baccalaureate Chemistry • International Baccalaureate Physics • International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems <p>The following CTE courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Research and Design • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems • Medical Microbiology and Pathophysiology • Principles of Technology I • Principles of Technology II • Engineering <p>Concurrent enrollment in college courses</p>	<p>biology course, a chemistry course, and a physics course, a student may select the fourth required credit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth and Space Science; • Environmental Systems; • Aquatic Science; • Astronomy; • AP Biology; • IB Biology; • AP Chemistry; • IB Chemistry; • AP Physics; • IB Physics; • AP Environmental Science; • IB Environmental Systems; <p>The following CTE courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Research and Design • Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems • Engineering
Social Studies ♦	<p>Two and one-half credits must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History Studies (one credit) or • World Geography Studies (one credit), • U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and • U.S. Government (one-half credit). 	<p>Three and one-half credits must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History Studies (one credit), • World Geography Studies (one credit), • U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and • U.S. Government (one-half credit). 	<p>Three and one-half credits must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History Studies (one credit), • World Geography Studies (one credit), • U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and • U.S. Government (one-half credit).
Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits ♦	One-half credit	One-half credit	One-half credit
Academic Elective	<p>One credit selected from either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History Studies, • World Geography Studies, or • any science course approved by SBOE. <p>(If substituting Chemistry or Physics for IPC, must use the other as academic elective credit here.)</p>	None	None
Physical Education	<p>One and one-half credits to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.)</p> <p>Can substitute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drill team, • marching band, • cheerleading, • ROTC, 	<p>One and one-half credits to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.)</p> <p>Can substitute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drill team, • marching band, • cheerleading, • ROTC, 	<p>One and one-half credits to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.)</p> <p>Can substitute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drill team, • marching band, • cheerleading, • ROTC,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> athletics, Dance I-IV, approved private programs, or certain career and technical education courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> athletics, Dance I-IV, approved private programs, or certain career and technical education courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> athletics, Dance I-IV, approved private programs, or certain career and technical education courses.
Languages Other Than English ♦	None	Two credits must consist of any two levels in the same language.	Three credits must consist of any three levels in the same language.
Health Education	One-half credit or Health Science (one credit).	One-half credit or Health Science (one credit).	One-half credit or Health Science (one credit).
Technology Applications ♦	One credit , which may be satisfied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the following courses in Chapter 126 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications): Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, or Independent Study in Technology Applications; the following courses in Chapter 120 of this title (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Business Education): Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia; or the following courses in Chapter 123 of this title (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Education/Industrial Technology Education): Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology. 	One credit , which may be satisfied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 126: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/ Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, or Independent Study in Technology Applications, or state-approved technology applications innovative courses; the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 120: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia; the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 123: Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology; or the completion of three credits (for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep high school plan of study) consisting of two or more state-approved career and technology courses in 19 TAC Chapters 119-125 and 127. Districts shall ensure that career and technology courses, including innovative courses, in a coherent sequence used to meet the technology applications credit are appropriate to collectively teach the knowledge and skills found in any of the approved courses listed in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this paragraph. Students pursuing the technology applications option described in this subparagraph must demonstrate proficiency in technology applications prior to the beginning of Grade 11. 	One credit , which may be satisfied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 126: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/ Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, or Independent Study in Technology Applications, or state-approved technology applications innovative courses; the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 120: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia; the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 123: Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology; or the completion of three credits (for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep high school plan of study) consisting of two or more state-approved career and technology courses in 19 TAC Chapters 119-125 and 127. Districts shall ensure that career and technology courses, including innovative courses, in a coherent sequence used to meet the technology applications credit are appropriate to collectively teach the knowledge and skills found in any of the approved courses listed in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this paragraph. Students pursuing the technology applications option described in this subparagraph must demonstrate proficiency in technology applications prior to the beginning of Grade 11.
Fine Arts ♦	One credit which may be satisfied by any one course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117.	One credit which may be satisfied by any one course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117.	One credit which may be satisfied by any one course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117.
Speech	One-half credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications 	One-half credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications 	One-half credit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Applications
Elective Courses ♦	Five Four and one-half credits from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), state-approved innovative courses, JROTC (one to four credits), or Driver Education (one-half credit). 	Three and one-half Six credits (includes speech) from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), state-approved innovative courses, JROTC (one to four credits), or Driver Education (one-half credit). 	Two and one-half credits from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), state-approved innovative courses, JROTC (one to four credits), or Driver Education (one-half credit).
Total Credits	22	26	26

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House Bill 3 Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions – Volume One

General

1. Does the added flexibility apply to students who will be seniors in 2009-2010?

The changes to the graduation requirements that affect the enrichment areas apply to all students in the recommended high school program (RHSP) regardless of when they entered Grade 9. The requirements for the foundation areas still depend on when a student entered Grade 9.

Students in the RHSP are no longer required to complete a ½ credit in health education or one credit in technology applications and are now required to complete one credit in physical education rather than one and ½ credits.

Students must still complete ½ credit in communication applications (speech) and the requirements for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies (including economics) that were in place when they entered Grade 9.

2. Do students who will be seniors in 2009-2010 now have to earn four credits in mathematics and four credits in science?

No. Any student who entered Grade 9 before the 2007-08 school year only needs to earn 3 credits in mathematics and 3 credits in science to satisfy the state graduation requirements.

3. What if a district policy already requires the students who will be seniors in 2009-2010 to earn four credits in mathematics and four credits in science?

If a district policy is already in place requiring more than what the state requires for graduation, the district still has authority to enforce those requirements.

4. Do students who will be seniors in 2009-2010 now have to earn 26 credits in order to graduate?

No. Students who entered Grade 9 before the 2007-08 school year still only need 24 credits to satisfy the state graduation requirements.

5. What if a district policy already requires the students who will be seniors in 2009-2010 to earn 26 credits to graduate?

If a district policy is already in place requiring more than what the state requires for graduation, the district still has authority to enforce those requirements.

6. If a district is still required to offer as a required curriculum all subjects in the required and enrichment curriculum through grade 12 (TEC 28.002) and is required to provide instruction in the essential knowledge and skills of the appropriate grade levels in the foundation and enrichment curriculum (19 TAC §74.1), is a district required to ensure that all students are instructed in the essential knowledge and skills for health and technology applications even though students can no longer be required by state law to take these courses?

No. School districts and charters are required to make available the subjects in the enrichment curriculum, but are not required to offer every course in each subject, or to enroll and instruct each student in each subject. Students have to have access to courses in the enrichment curriculum under

Section 28.002(a)(2) of the Education Code, but districts may choose locally how often courses are offered and which individual courses are offered. Whenever a district does offer a course in the enrichment curriculum, it is required to teach all of the essential knowledge and skills in that course.

Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)

7. How does House Bill 3 change the DAP?

House Bill 3 does not change any of the course requirements for students on the DAP. The law limits the State Board of Education's (SBOE) authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the *RHSP only*. Consequently, requirements in SBOE rule that go beyond the requirements in the law are still in effect for the DAP.

Minimum High School Program

8. How does House Bill 3 change the minimum high school program?

House Bill 3 requires students on the minimum high school program to complete 1 fine arts credit. House Bill 3 does not change any other course requirements for students on the minimum high school program. The law limits the SBOE's authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the *RHSP only*. Consequently, requirements in SBOE rule that go beyond the requirements in the law are still in effect for the minimum high school program.

9. In order to opt into the minimum program a student must:

- (1) be at least 16 years of age;
- (2) have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; **or**
- (3) have failed to be promoted to the tenth grade one or more times as determined by the school district in order to be permitted to take courses under the minimum high school program.

Does this mean that a student must be at least 16 years of age and then satisfy one of the second two criteria or does this mean that a student must satisfy only one of these criteria i.e. be at least 16 years of age **or** have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum **or** have failed to be promoted to the tenth grade one or more times as determined by the school district in order to be permitted to take courses under the minimum high school program.

No. A student may enroll in the minimum program if the parent and administrator agree and any one of those three circumstances is met. Remember, HB3 also gives any student the right to reenroll in the recommended high school program at any time.

10. Are students now only required to earn two credits in each subject of the foundation curriculum to graduate?

No. A student must have earned two credits in each subject of the foundation curriculum in order to opt into the minimum high school program, if the student is less than 16 or has not been classified as a 9th grader for more than one school year. Once the student is in the minimum high school program, the student must satisfy all the course requirements listed in 19 TAC Chapter 74 for a total of 22 credits to graduate.

Physical Education

11. Do students still have to take Foundations of Personal Fitness for ½ of the required physical education graduation requirement?

Since HB 3 does not allow the SBOE to designate a specific course in the enrichment curriculum as a requirement for graduation under the RHSP, students would no longer be required to take Foundations of Personal Fitness to satisfy the physical education graduation requirement.

Since the SBOE still has authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the minimum and DAP, students must still take Foundations of Personal Fitness under these two graduation programs per SBOE rule.

12. Do the changes in House Bill 3 allow students to count more than two credits in physical education toward graduation requirements?

There are currently five courses in physical education, each of which is a ½ credit course. If a student were to take all five courses, the student could earn 2 and ½ credits toward graduation (1 credit to satisfy the physical education requirement and 1 and ½ credits to count toward elective requirements).

Current SBOE rule allows certain physical education substitutions such as athletics. There is not a limit on the number of physical education substitutions a student may have, so there is not a limit at this time on the number of physical education substitutions that may be counted toward the total number of graduation requirements. The SBOE retains the authority to determine course substitutions for physical education.

Speech

13. If the law does not require speech, why are students still required to take this course?

The law limits the SBOE's authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the RHSP. Speech is part of English language arts and therefore, part of the foundation curriculum rather than the enrichment curriculum. Consequently, the SBOE still has authority to require speech and that part of the rule is still in effect. Students under all three graduation programs are still required to earn ½ credit in speech.

14. Are students still required to take Communication Applications as the speech credit?

Yes.

15. Why does the side-by-side chart indicate that speech may count as an elective?

Since speech is not required in law, but the SBOE still has authority to require speech, this course may count toward the 6 required electives so that students still only need 26 credits to graduate rather than needing 26 and ½ credits to graduate.

Health Education

16. If students are no longer required to take health education as part of the graduation requirements for the RHSP, but districts are required to provide instruction in the p.a.p.a. program, are districts required to provide students with instruction in the p.a.p.a. program during another required course?

No. Section 28.002(p) of the Education Code requires the p.a.p.a. program to be part of “the district’s high school health curriculum.” That program must be part of a high school health class, but students in the recommended high school program are no longer required to take a health class for graduation.