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Fort Bend ISD Board approves phased-in approach to address changes in graduation requirements made by Texas Legislature in House Bill 3

At its August 10 regular Board Meeting, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees approved revisions to "Policy EIF (Local) – Graduation" to address changes in graduation requirements made by the 81st Texas Legislature in *House Bill 3*. The District believes a phased-in approach to the new graduation requirements will allow the campuses to accommodate campus master schedules already established for the 2009-2010 school year.

Fort Bend ISD will require all students, grades 9-12, who are enrolled in the 2009-2010 school year to graduate under the previous graduation requirements. In other words, all high school students in grades 9-12 will still need the health, technology applications and three semesters of physical education to graduate in our district. The only change for the 2009-2010 school year will be the addition of one Fine Arts credit for the Minimum High School Graduation plan, and this change applies to 9th grade students (or Freshman) entering high school in 2009-2010.

Fort Bend ISD will implement the new graduation requirements with incoming 9th grade students in the 2010-2011 school year (see enclosed document). All students entering the 9th grade in 2009-2010 or prior years will follow their previous graduation plans and requirements.

The District is also staffed for current graduation requirements and will need time to transition and allow our staff to transition as well. These changes will have an impact on staffing beginning the 2010-2011 school year.

Background

The 81st Texas Legislature passed *House Bill 3* that changed graduation requirements for students in Texas public schools. On June 25, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced that the new graduation requirements and graduation plans approved under *House Bill 3* would become effective immediately, impacting all students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Despite these changes, school districts may make local determinations about implementing requirements affecting student schedules.

The changes in *House Bill 3* remove the requirements for ½ credit in health, one credit in technology applications and ½ credit in physical education. Note: these changes were made only to the Recommended Student Graduation Plan and not for the Minimum or Distinguished (DAP) student graduation plans. A communication applications credit is still required at this point, but it will be considered by the State Board of Education.

For more information about House Bill 3 Graduation requirements, go to

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/HB3index.html>.

Recommended High School Program
for students who entered Grade 9 in 2010-2011 or later

	Graduation Requirements Current – 26 credits	New Graduation Requirements HB 3 – 26 credits
English Language Arts (4)	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
Social Studies (4)	World Geography	World Geography
	World History	World History
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
Mathematics (4)	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
	4 th SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 th SBOE approved mathematics course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
Science (4)	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology	Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology
	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics	Two credits from two of the following: (A) IPC (B) Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry (C) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics
	4 th SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)	4 th SBOE approved science course (see TAC §74.63 for possible courses)
Languages other than English (2)	Levels I and II in the same language	Levels I and II in the same language
Fine Arts (1)	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts	May be satisfied by any course in Chapter 117, Subchapter C, relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts
Physical Education (1)	1½ required (.5 must be PE 1A; Foundations of Personal Fitness is required)	1 required
Speech	½ required	½ required per current SBOE rule, may count as an elective
Technology Applications	1 required	Not required
Health	½ required	Not required
Electives	3 ½ - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements	*6 - May be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.51(g) relating to High School Graduation Requirements