

## Graduation Credit Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade Beginning in 2012-2013

Discipline	Minimum HSP	Recommended HSP	Distinguished Achievement Program*
<b>English Language Arts ♦</b>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, and III</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> <li>• The fourth credit of English may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English IV</li> <li>▪ Research and Technical Writing</li> <li>▪ Creative Writing</li> <li>▪ Practical Writing Skills</li> <li>▪ Literary Genres</li> <li>▪ Business English (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Journalism</li> <li>▪ AP English Language and Composition</li> <li>▪ AP English Literature and Composition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, III, and IV</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I, II, III, and IV</li> <li>• English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate levels of English language proficiency.</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics ♦</b>	<p><b>Three credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• The final credit may be Algebra II. A student may not combine a half credit of Algebra II with a half credit from another mathematics course to satisfy the final mathematics credit requirement.</li> <li>• The final credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from any of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Precalculus</li> <li>▪ Mathematical Models with Applications</li> <li>▪ Independent Study in Mathematics</li> <li>▪ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</li> <li>▪ AP Statistics</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus AB</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus BC</li> <li>▪ AP Computer Science</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Higher Level</li> <li>▪ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</li> <li>▪ Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• The additional credit may be Mathematical Models with Applications and must be successfully completed prior to Algebra II.</li> <li>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Precalculus</li> <li>▪ Independent Study in Mathematics</li> <li>▪ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</li> <li>▪ AP Statistics</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus AB</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus BC</li> <li>▪ AP Computer Science</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Higher Level</li> <li>▪ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The additional credit may be selected from the following and may be taken after successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following after successful completion of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Precalculus</li> <li>▪ Independent Study in Mathematics</li> <li>▪ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)</li> <li>▪ AP Statistics</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus AB</li> <li>▪ AP Calculus BC</li> <li>▪ AP Computer Science</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematical Studies Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Standard Level</li> <li>▪ IB Mathematics Higher Level</li> <li>▪ IB Further Mathematics Standard Level</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The additional credit may be selected from the following courses and may be taken after successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engineering Mathematics (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Statistics and Risk Management (CTE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

♦ College Board Advanced Placement, college-level concurrent/dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

\* Distinguished Achievement Program requirements also include student achievement of four advanced measures. See [TAC §74.74\(d\)](#) for more information.

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<b>Science ♦</b>	<p><b>Two credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)</li> </ul> <p>May substitute a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry) or a physics credit (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics) for IPC but must use the other of these two courses as the academic elective credit.</p>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics</li> <li>• The additional credit may be IPC and must be successfully completed prior to chemistry and physics.</li> <li>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following laboratory-based courses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aquatic Science</li> <li>▪ Astronomy</li> <li>▪ Earth and Space Science</li> <li>▪ Environmental Systems</li> <li>▪ AP Biology</li> <li>▪ AP Chemistry</li> <li>▪ AP Physics B</li> <li>▪ AP Physics C</li> <li>▪ AP Environmental Science</li> <li>▪ IB Biology</li> <li>▪ IB Chemistry</li> <li>▪ IB Physics</li> <li>▪ IB Environmental Systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The additional credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses and may be taken after successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with physics:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scientific Research and Design (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Anatomy and Physiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Medical Microbiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Pathophysiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Animal Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Biotechnology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Food Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Forensic Science (CTE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics, AP Physics, or IB Physics</li> <li>• The fourth credit may be selected from any of the following laboratory-based courses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aquatic Science</li> <li>▪ Astronomy</li> <li>▪ Earth and Space Science</li> <li>▪ Environmental Systems</li> <li>▪ AP Biology</li> <li>▪ AP Chemistry</li> <li>▪ AP Physics B</li> <li>▪ AP Physics C</li> <li>▪ AP Environmental Science</li> <li>▪ IB Biology</li> <li>▪ IB Chemistry</li> <li>▪ IB Physics</li> <li>▪ IB Environmental Systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The additional credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses and may be taken after successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with physics:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scientific Research and Design (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Anatomy and Physiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Engineering Design and Problem Solving (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Medical Microbiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Pathophysiology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Animal Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Biotechnology (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Advanced Plant and Soil Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Food Science (CTE)</li> <li>▪ Forensic Science (CTE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies ♦</b>	<p><b>Three credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>• Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit)</li> <li>• The final credit may be selected from the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>▪ World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>• Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since 1877 (one credit)</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit)</li> <li>• Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit)</li> </ul>

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<b>Academic Elective</b>	<p><b>One credit from any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies</li> <li>• World Geography Studies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A student may not combine a half credit of either World History Studies or World Geography Studies with a half credit from another academic elective.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any SBOE-approved science course                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If substituting Chemistry or Physics for IPC, a student must use the other of these two courses as academic elective credit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	None	None
<b>Languages Other Than English ♦</b>	None	<b>Two credits:</b> The credits must consist of any two levels in the same language.	<b>Three credits:</b> The credits must consist of any three levels in the same language.
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p><b>One credit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>▪ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>▪ Aerobic Activities</li> <li>▪ Team or Individual Sports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Athletics</li> <li>▪ JROTC</li> <li>▪ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drill Team</li> <li>▪ Marching Band</li> <li>▪ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>• Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> <li>• A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies).</li> </ul>	<p><b>One credit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>▪ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>▪ Aerobic Activities</li> <li>▪ Team or Individual Sports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Athletics</li> <li>▪ JROTC</li> <li>▪ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drill Team</li> <li>▪ Marching Band</li> <li>▪ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>• Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> <li>• A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies).</li> </ul>	<p><b>One credit:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The required credit may be from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foundations of Personal Fitness</li> <li>▪ Adventure/Outdoor Education</li> <li>▪ Aerobic Activities</li> <li>▪ Team or Individual Sports</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Athletics</li> <li>▪ JROTC</li> <li>▪ Appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed above may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drill Team</li> <li>▪ Marching Band</li> <li>▪ Cheerleading</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All allowed substitution activities must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.</li> <li>• Credit may not be earned for any TEKS-based course more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions.</li> <li>• A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies).</li> </ul>
<b>Speech</b>	<p><b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Applications</li> <li>• Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<p><b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Applications</li> <li>• Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>	<p><b>One-half credit from either of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Applications</li> <li>• Professional Communications (CTE)</li> </ul>

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<b>Fine Arts ♦</b>	<p>One credit for students who entered Grade 9 in 2010-11 or later from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> <li>• Digital Art and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> <li>• 3-D Modeling and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> </ul>	<p>One credit from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> <li>• Digital Art and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> <li>• 3-D Modeling and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> </ul>	<p>One credit from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Music, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV</li> <li>• Principles and Elements of Floral Design (CTE)</li> <li>• Digital Art and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> <li>• 3-D Modeling and Animation (Technology Applications)</li> </ul>
<b>Elective Courses ♦</b>	<p>Six and one-half credits from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul> <p>A student may not combine a half credit of a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment with another elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement.</p>	<p>Five and one-half credits from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul> <p>A student may not combine a half credit of a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment with another elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement.</p>	<p>Four and one-half credits from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills)</li> <li>• State-approved innovative courses</li> <li>• JROTC (one to four credits)</li> <li>• Driver Education (one-half credit)</li> </ul> <p>A student may not combine a half credit of a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment with another elective credit course to satisfy an elective credit requirement.</p>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

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