# **FORT WORTH ISD GUIDE TO GRADUATION** UNDERSTANDING ENDORSEMENTS AND GRADUATION PLANS

### ENDORSEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

Endorsements allow the student to focus their studies in coursework, which support future college and career choices.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM)	<ul> <li>Includes courses directly related to:</li> <li>Science, including environmental science</li> <li>Technology, including computer science</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Math</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>Must complete Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, and one of the following:         <ol> <li>A coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the STEM career cluster.</li> <li>A coherent sequence of four credits in selected Computer Science courses.</li> <li>A total of 5 credits in Math by successfully completing Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and 2 additional Math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.</li> <li>A total of 5 credits in science by successfully completing biology, chemistry, Physics, and 2 additional Science courses.</li> <li>In addition to Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics, a coherent sequence of 3 additional credits from no more than two of the three areas listed in 1, 2, 3, and 4.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	Includes courses directly related to: Accounting Agricultural science Architecture Auto technology Communications Construction Database management Finance Graphic design HVAC Info technology Logistics Marketing	<ul> <li>Must complete one of the following:</li> <li>Coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the courses listed to the left.</li> <li>Four English elective credits by selecting three levels in one of the following areas: <ul> <li>Advanced Broadcast Journalism</li> <li>Advanced Journalism: Newspaper</li> <li>Advanced Journalism: Yearbook</li> <li>Debate</li> <li>Public Speaking</li> </ul> </li> <li>Four technology application credits listed below: <ul> <li>3-D Modeling &amp; Animation</li> <li>Digital Art &amp; Animation</li> <li>Digital Communication</li> <li>Digital Design &amp; Media Production</li> <li>Digital Video &amp; Audio Design</li> </ul> </li> <li>Coherent sequence of four credits from 1, 2, or 3.</li> </ul>
PUBLIC SERVICE	Includes courses directly related to: Culinary arts and hospitality Education and training Government & public administration Health sciences and occupations Law, public safety, corrections & security	<ol> <li>Must complete one of the following:</li> <li>Coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the courses listed to the left.</li> <li>Four courses in JROTC.</li> </ol>
ARTS AND HUMANITIES	Includes courses directly related to: Cultural studies English Literature Fine arts History Political science World languages	<ul> <li>Must complete one of the following:</li> <li>Total of 5 social studies credits</li> <li>Four levels of the same language in LOTE and two levels in a different language in LOTE</li> <li>Four levels of American Sign Language</li> <li>Coherent sequence of 4 credits by selecting courses from 1 or 2 categories or disciplines in fine arts or innovative courses approved by the commissioner</li> <li>Four English elective credits by selecting from the following: <ul> <li>AP English Literature &amp; Composition</li> <li>Creative Writing</li> <li>English IV</li> <li>Humanities</li> <li>IB Lang Studies A1 Higher Level</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
MULTIDISCIPLINARY	Allows a student to select courses from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement	<ol> <li>Must complete one of the following:</li> <li>Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education w/o remediation from w/in one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence.</li> <li>Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and Chemistry and/or Physics.</li> <li>Four credits in advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts</li> </ol>

# FORT WORTH ISD **GUIDE TO GRADUATION** UNDERSTANDING ENDORSEMENTS AND GRADUATION PLANS

### PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students can also earn a performance acknowledgement for dual credit, bilingualism and biliteracy, AP or IB exams, PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT or ACT testing, or certifications and licensures.

DUAL CREDIT	<ol> <li>Successful completion of:</li> <li>At least 12 hours of college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit as part of the Texas core curriculum, and advanced technical credit courses, including locally articulated courses, with a grade of the equivalent of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 or</li> <li>An associate degree while in high school</li> </ol>	
BILINGUALISM AND BILITERACY	<ul> <li>Demonstrate proficiency in accordance with District grading policy in two or more languages by:</li> <li>Complete all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; and</li> <li>Satisfy one of the following: <ul> <li>Completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or</li> <li>Demonstrate proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or</li> <li>Complete at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or</li> <li>Complete at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or</li> <li>Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:</li> <li>&gt; Score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or</li> <li>&gt; Score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level languages other than English course; or</li> <li>&gt; Performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent</li> </ul> </li> <li>In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy, an English language learner must also have: <ul> <li>a) Participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; and b) Scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
AP TEST OR IB EXAM	Earn a: 1. Score of 3 or above on a College Board advanced placement examination 2. Score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate examination	
PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT, ACT	<ol> <li>Earn a:</li> <li>Score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation</li> <li>College readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subject tests on the ACT-PLAN® examination</li> <li>Combined critical reading and mathematics score of at least 1250 on the SAT®; or</li> <li>Composite score on the ACT® examination of 28 (excluding the writing subscore)</li> </ol>	
CERTIFICATION OR LICENSE	<ul> <li>Earn a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license with:</li> <li>Performance on an examination or series of examinations sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification, or</li> <li>Performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession</li> </ul>	