

Graduation Requirements



For Students Entering 9th grade Before 2014-2015

Foundation Plan

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a school district must ensure that each student, on entering ninth grade, indicates in writing and endorsement that the student intends to earn.

A district must permit a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated.

A student may graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year:

1. The student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
2. The student's parent or person standing in parental relation files with a school counselor written permission, on a form adopted by the agency, allowing the student to graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement.

Foundation Requirements:

English Language Arts	<u>Four credits</u> English 1 English II English III Advanced English Course
Mathematics	<u>Three Credits</u> Algebra I Geometry Advanced Mathematics Course
Science	<u>Three credits</u> Biology IPC or Advanced Science Course Advanced Science Course
Social Studies	<u>Three credits</u> U.S. History U.S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World Geography or world History or Combined World History/World Geography (course not developed yet)

Physical Education	One credit
Languages Other than English	Two credits in the same language
Fine Arts	One credit
Electives	Five credits

***Endorsements**

A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing:

- *curriculum requirements for the endorsement
- *four credits in mathematics
- *four credits in science
- *two additional elective credits

Each school district must make available to high school students courses that allow a student to complete the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement.

A school district that offers only one endorsement curriculum must offer the multidisciplinary studies endorsement curriculum.

A school district defines advanced courses and determines a coherent sequence of courses for an endorsement area, provided that prerequisites are followed.

A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under the foundation high school program, including an elective requirement.

*See the endorsement section in this booklet for more information concerning graduating on the foundation plan with an endorsement.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing:

- *a total of four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- *a total of four credits in science
- *the remaining curriculum requirements
- *the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement

A student must earn a distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission.

HB5 Comparison Chart for NLISD

<u>Pre-HB5/NLISD Graduation Requirements</u> Recommended, DAP and Minimum Graduation Plan	<u>HB5/NLISD Graduation Requirements</u> Replaces Recommended, DAP and Minimum Graduation Plan
English (4 credits) English I, II, III & IV (or English I & II for speakers for other Languages)	English (4 credits) English I, II, and III, plus and advanced English course
Math (4 credits) Algebra I, II, Geometry and a 4 th Math (for which Algebra II is a prerequisite)	Math (4 credits) Algebra I, Geometry, and *Algebra II or Advanced Math
Science (4 credits) Biology, Chemistry, Physics and an additional lab-based science course	Science (4 credits) Biology, IPC or Advanced Science and additional Advanced Science course
Social Studies (4 credits) World History, World Geography, US History, US Gov't/Economics	Social Studies (3 credits) US History, US Gov't /Economics, World Geography or World History
Languages Other than English (2 credits)	Languages Other than English (2 credits)
Physical Ed. (1 credit)	Physical Ed. (1 credit)
Electives (4 credits)	Endorsement Course Work/Electives (5.5 credits)
Fine Arts (1 credit)	Fine Arts (1 credit)
Health/Professional Communications (Speech) (.5 credit ea.)	Professional Communications (Speech) (.5 credit)
Technology (1 credit)	Health (.5 credit)
Distinguished Achievement Program (26 credits) Students must complete all course requirements for the Recommended Graduation Plan, take 3 years of the same language other than English, and complete a combination of 4 advanced measures	Technology (.5 credit) *If a student, in completing Algebra I and Geometry, demonstrates that he/she is unlikely to be successful in Algebra II, with parent, counselor and principal approval may substitute another appropriate course as follows: Math Models; Food, and Natural Resources;
	Endorsements (26 Credits) To earn an endorsement a student must successfully complete: •Courses related to endorsements
Minimum Graduation Requirements The NLISD Board of Trustees allows dismissal from the Recommended Plan due to ARD committee decision or lack of academic success. 2 local credits will count toward graduation. NLISD requires 24 credits, State requires 22 credits.	Distinguished Level of Achievement (26 Credits) To earn a distinguished level of achievement a student must successfully complete the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement, including 4 credits in science and 4 credits in mathematics to include Algebra II.
	Performance Acknowledgement A student may earn a performance acknowledgement on their diploma and transcript for outstanding performance on any of the following: • Completing at least 12 hours of college academic courses including those taken for dual credit and advanced technical credit. • In bilingualism and biliteracy • On a college AP or IB exam • On the PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT or ACT • For earning a notionally or internationally recognized industry certification

<u>HB4 Endorsement</u> Areas of Study Course must directly relate to endorsement
STEM: (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science • Technology • Engineering • Mathematics
Business & Industry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources • Architecture and Construction • Arts, A/V Technology and Communications • Business, Management and Administration • Finance • Hospitality and Tourism (Culinary Arts) • Information Technology • Manufacturing • Marketing, Sales and Service • Transportation and Logistics (Auto Technology) • Advanced Broadcast Journalism, Newspaper or Public Speaking
Public Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Training • Health Science • Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security • Government and Public Administration • Human Services
Arts and Humanities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Dance • Music • Theatre • Languages other than English
Multidisciplinary Studies: Allows a student to complete prescribed courses for each of the four foundation subject areas, advanced placement course from each of the four foundation subject areas or four advanced courses from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas no tin a coherent sequence.

Distinguished Achievement Plan

This plan lists the core requirements for completing the DAP and Texas Scholars program. School counselors have information regarding ATC courses and other programs. **26 credits**

Subject Area	Qualifying Courses	Credits
English Language Arts	English I, II, III, & IV	4
Math	Algebra I, II, Geometry, fourth math which Algebra II is a prerequisite	4
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Plus an additional lab-based science course	4
Social Studies	World history, World Geography, US History, US Gov't/Economics	4
Physical Education	Foundations of Personal Fitness	1
Languages other than English	Any three levels in the same language	3
Technology	See courses available in the course selection section	1
Fine Arts	Art, Dance, Music, Theatre, Principles and Elements of Floral Design	1
Speech	Professional Communications	.5
Electives	Students may choose electives from the list of SBOE approved courses	3

Note: For students entering ninth grade beginning 2012-2013, some requirements for 4th year math and science credit have changed for the Recommended and DAP measures. Credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based science courses and may be taken after successful completion of biology and chemistry, and either after successful completion of or concurrently with physics; Anatomy & Physiology, Food Science, Scientific Research & Design. Credit is available for Engineering Mathematics after successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II.

Minimum High School Graduation Plan

The State Board of Education has made major changes to the Minimum High School Program, Effective with the class of 2011. These provisions were designed to ensure that students are given a reasonable opportunity to succeed under the Recommended program before they are allowed to enroll in the Minimum program. All students who graduate from North Lamar High School will receive the same diploma regardless of the program of study.

Before a student is permitted to take courses under the Minimum plan, the student, the student's parent/guardian and a school counselor or school administrator must agree in writing. This written agreement must be signed by each party. The student must satisfy one of three criteria in order to opt into the Minimum plan: *be at least 16 years of age, have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum, or have failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times.*

State Board of Education Recommended Plan

The State Board of Education (SBOE) Recommended High School Program has been adopted by the North Lamar Board of Trustees and Texas Education Agency as the standard graduation plan for any student planning to continue formal study beyond high school at the college/university level or in a vocational/technical institute. Additionally, students who complete these requirements will receive special recognition. **A student must complete the requirements of the State Board of Education Recommended High School Program in order to be designated Valedictorian or Salutatorian or to be ranked among the top ten graduates.**

While the state has established the SBOE Recommended High School Program as the standard graduation program for students planning to continue study beyond high school, the district encourages students to pursue the Distinguished Achievement Program, a more rigorous course of study.

The State Board of Education adopted changes to the high school graduation requirements in January 2012. The new requirements are effective beginning with students who enter the ninth grade in the 2012-2013 school year.

SBOE Recommended Plan

The SBOE **Recommended Plan** is the district standard for all students and meets the basic requirements for **Texas Scholars**. Ask your guidance counselor for information about Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) courses. **26 credits**

Subject Area	Qualifying Courses	Credits
English Language Arts	English I,II,III & IV	4
Math	Algebra I, II, Geometry, and a fourth math course	4
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, plus an additional lab-based course	4
Social Studies	World History, World Geography, US History, US Government/ Economics	4
Physical Education	Physical Education (substitutes listed in course descriptions)	1
Languages other than English	Any two levels in the same language	2
Technology	See courses available in the course selection section	1
Fine Arts	Art, Dance, Music ,Theatre, Principles and Elements of Floral Design	1
Speech	Professional Communications	.5
Electives	Students may choose electives from the list of SBOE approved courses	4

The North Lamar ISD Board of Trustees allows dismissal from the SBOE Recommended High School Plan due to and ARD committee decision or lack of academic success. Two local credits will count toward graduation. Academic counselor has terms and conditions that apply. The table below reflects requirements for the Minimum Graduation Plan. **24 Credits**

Subject Area	Qualifying Courses	Credits
English/Language Arts	English I, II, III	4
Math	Algebra I, Geometry, third Credit is determined from a list of math alternatives	3
Science	Biology, Integrated Physics and Chemistry	3
Social Studies	US History, US Gov't (.5) , World History, World Geography	3.5
Economics	Economics	.5
Physical Education	Physical Education	1
Electives	Courses selected from SBOE Approved list	6
Fine Arts	Art, Dance, Music, Theatre or Principles and Elements of Floral Design	1
Speech	Professional Communications	.5
Technology	See courses available in course selection section	1
Local Credits	Local credits may count toward graduation requirements	2

Benefits of Graduating under

The Recommended High School Program

- **College readiness.** Many colleges and universities minimally require the RHSP for admission. In addition, students ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class from an accredited Texas public high school are eligible for automatic admission to most Texas public universities if they have completed the RHSP or the Distinguished Achievement plan.
- **Recognition.** The Recommended High school Program seal will be affixed to the Academic Achievement Record (AAR) or transcript, of student graduating under the RHSP.
- **Test results.** Research suggest that students who take additional English, math, social studies and science courses make higher scores on the SAT or ACT college entrance exams. The RHSP requires four credits in each of these core subject areas.
- **Program participation.** The Texas Scholars program allows students who participate and graduate to be eligible for Graduation Honors and to compete for certain scholarships. Texas Scholars who qualify for financial assistance become eligible for a grant program passed by the Texas Legislature: the Texas Grant program. This may provide all tuition and fees for public colleges and universities in Texas; however, grant funds are administered on a first-come, first-served basis. The Texas Scholars program requires students to graduate under the RHSP or the DAP.

TEXAS SCHOLARS REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with school year 2015-2016 all students working toward recognition as a Lamar County Texas Scholar will be required to:

- **Graduate from high school having completed the Foundation High School Program with an Endorsement^{*}, Recommended Program, or Distinguished Achievement Program**
- **Complete at least two courses (4 semesters) while in high school eligible for college credit.**
- **Take the ACT/SAT before the end of the first semester of their senior year. The ASVAB, taken by the end of the first semester of their senior year, will be accepted for students who plan to enter the military after graduation.**
- **Receive no six weeks grade average or semester grade average below 70 in any class in their senior year.**

High school courses eligible to be considered for college credit will include the following:

- Dual credit courses
- Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
- Concurrent enrollment courses

Timeline for calculating grades and determining eligibility for seniors will be as follows:

- Senior students must have no six weeks grade average or semester grade average below 70 for any class through the end of the fourth six weeks.
- A Texas Scholars Evaluation Committee comprised of area counselors and administrators will consider the eligibility of students with extenuating circumstances.

* Students who have been expelled or placed in an alternative disciplinary setting during their senior year will be disqualified for Texas Scholars.

* Students who were in grade 9, 10, or 11 in the 2013-2014 school year must be given a choice to graduate through the Recommended High School Program, the Distinguished Achievement Program, or the Foundation High School Program with an Endorsement to be a Texas Scholar.