

Foundation High School Program with Endorsements

The Foundation High School Program with endorsements became the default graduation program for all Texas public school students entering ninth grade beginning with the 2014–2015 school year.

The graduation program is a flexible program that allows students to pursue their own interests.

Texas High School Program Graduation Plans

The Foundation High School Program with Endorsements

The diploma for the Foundation High School Program with endorsements consists of several parts.

- **Foundation Plan (22 credits)**
 - the core of the Texas high school diploma program
- **Endorsements (4 or more additional credits)**
 - acknowledgement(s) a student receives for meeting Foundation Plan requirements and completing a series of additional courses in a particular endorsement area
 - five endorsement options
- **Enhancements**
 - **Distinguished Level of Achievement**
 - notes completion of more advanced academic courses and an endorsement
 - required of students competing for Top 10% automatic admission at Texas state funded universities (except University of Texas)
 - **Performance Acknowledgment**
 - notes outstanding achievement in specific areas

Foundation Plan

The 22 credit Foundation Plan coursework includes:

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|--|-----------|
| • English language arts | 4 credits |
| • Mathematics | 3 credits |
| • Social studies | 3 credits |
| • Science | 3 credits |
| • Foreign language | 2 credits |
| • Fine arts | 1 credit |
| • PE | 1 credit |
| • Electives (includes speech and health) | 5 credits |

Endorsements

Endorsement areas are made up of a series of related courses that are grouped together by interest or skills. Each endorsement area will provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Developing a Graduation Plan

All students are required to:

-complete the interest inventory, *Matchmaker*, in Career Cruising;

-attend a four-year planning meeting with their counselor;

-select an endorsement(s) area;

-submit an Endorsement Declaration form signed by a parent or guardian and the student; and

-complete a four-year plan of coursework leading to a diploma in the Foundation Plan with endorsement(s).

Endorsements

To earn an endorsement, a student must successfully meet the curriculum requirements of the Foundation High School Program *and* earn credits for additional courses as required for a specific endorsement.

To earn an endorsement, students must complete

- a) Foundation Plan coursework,
- b) an additional math credit,
- c) an additional science credit, and
- d) a coherent sequence of elective or Career and Technical Education courses that meet the requirements for a specific endorsement.

A student must earn at least 26 credits to earn an endorsement.

New Braunfels ISD students may earn endorsements in the following areas:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Arts and Humanities
- Public Services
- Multidisciplinary Studies

Students will be assisted by their counselor to select an area of interest.

A school district must ensure that each student, on entering ninth grade, indicates in writing an endorsement that the student intends to earn.

Resources

The following resources can be found through links on the NBISD website: nbisd.org >Ninth Grade Center>Course and Career Planning.

- *New Braunfels High School Main Campus and Ninth Grade Center Course Catalog–Foundation Graduation Plans with Endorsements*
- Career Cruising
- Four-year Plans (PowerPoint)

For information on Career and Technical Education course sequencing, go to nbisd.org/page/cate.index >Career Cluster Crosswalks 2017-2018.