

Van Vleck High School

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Dear VVHS Parents/Guardians, and Students,

I hope this letter finds you doing well! Recently, TEA issued notification to school districts requiring them to inform parents and students that a student is not required by law to successfully complete Algebra II as a requirement for High School Graduation. However, TEA also states that there are potential consequences to a student electing not to successfully complete Algebra II as part of their graduation plan. Specifically, TEA states the following:

“A student may not earn the distinguished level of achievement or be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student if the student does not successfully complete high school Algebra II.”

While Algebra II may not be required to graduate with a High School Diploma, Van Vleck High School will continue to encourage students to successfully complete Algebra II as part of their graduation plan to maximize available post-secondary opportunities for our students.

In an effort to ensure you are fully informed, we have included the full TEA statement concerning Algebra II in this correspondence. Should you need additional guidance concerning this, please do not hesitate to contact VVHS Counselor, Kari Button.

Sincerely,

Chris Townsend

Required Notification Regarding Algebra II as a High School Graduation Requirement

A student is not required by state law ([Texas Education Code, Section 28.025](#)) to successfully complete Algebra II as a requirement for high school graduation. However, there are potential consequences to a student who does not successfully complete an Algebra II course.

A student is eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student if the student earned a grade point average in the **top 10 percent** of the student's high school graduating class or in the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission to The University of Texas at Austin*, and the applicant—

- successfully completed the requirements for the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program at a public high school; or
- satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent.

A student may not earn the distinguished level of achievement or be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student if the student does not successfully complete high school Algebra II.

There are several state financial aid programs available for certain Texas public high school students. Certain state financial aid programs include curriculum requirements that should be considered when planning a student's high school career to ensure eligibility for financial aid under one of these programs. Please note that this is not a complete list of requirements and additional eligibility requirements apply. A full list of requirements is available through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) financial aid webpage at

<http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa.cfm?Kind=GS>

For initial eligibility for a TEXAS grant, a student enrolling in an eligible institution must be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in this state who completed the Foundation High School Program or its equivalent and have accomplished any **two or more** of the following:

- Successful completion of the course requirements of the International Baccalaureate diploma program or earning of the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school through courses described in Texas Education Code (TEC), Sections 28.009(a)(1), (2), and (3)
- Satisfaction of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks prescribed by the THECB under TEC, Section 51.334 on any assessment instrument designated by the THECB or qualification for an exemption as described by TEC, Section 51.338(b), (c), or (d)
- Graduation in the top one-third of the person's high school graduating class or graduation from high school with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent
- Completion for high school credit of at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful completion of an **Algebra II** course or at least one advanced career and technical or technology applications course