

# **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, GPA and RANK IN CLASS (RIC) CALCULATIONS, and DETERMINATION OF HONOR GRADUATES for ALL STUDENTS**

## **State Testing Requirements for Graduation**

Students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on End-of-Course assessments as required by state law. See the school counselor for more information on current state testing requirements for graduation.

## **Residency Requirements for valedictorian, salutatorian and honor graduates**

### **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

In order to be a valedictorian or salutatorian, the student must be a resident student at CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL for two **consecutive** semesters just prior to graduation and must be a resident student for at least two additional semesters. Resident student is defined to mean that the student attended CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL continuously for at least five of the six six weeks of the two semesters just prior to graduation and at least five of the six six weeks of two additional semesters.

### **Honor Graduates**

In order to be an honor graduate, the student must be a resident student at CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL during the two semesters just prior to graduation and during those two semesters must have taken four semesters of courses from CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL that will be included in the calculation of the GPA.

## **Non-Resident Honor Students**

A student who has the GPA to be an honor graduate but does not meet the resident requirements for being an honor graduate will be ranked as a non-resident honor student. The student is not eligible to be the valedictorian or salutatorian. The student will be ranked concurrently with the resident students but will not displace any student's ranking. For example, if the non-resident student has a GPA which would be third in the ranking with the resident students then there will be two students ranked third in the class. The non-resident honor student will be eligible for any honors/scholarships.

## **Transferred Grades**

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are offered to the same class of students in the District. Letter grades shall be recorded as follows: A+=98, A=95, A-=92, B+=88, B=85, B-=82, C=75, D=69, F=60.

## **Exclusions and Exceptions for Courses to be included in Rank in Class (RIC)**

If a student has earned credit in a course and repeats the course, only the original grades will be included in determining the student's GPA/RIC. Grades earned in courses taken from a competency-based program, unaccredited schools, home-school curriculum, modified content coursework, traditional correspondence courses, credit by exam, summer school courses (except those taken for dual credit from a college with which the district has a partnership arrangement and approved by the District prior to enrollment) shall not be included in determining RIC. The status of courses taken in formats other than those listed here will be determined by the principal.

**Time Frame for Calculation of the GPA**

The calculation of the GPA will be done after the fifth six weeks of the senior year. The fourth and fifth six weeks of the senior year will be averaged together and rounded to a whole number. The grade will be recorded as a semester grade. All other grades used in calculating the GPA will be semester grades.

**Grade to be recorded on student report card and transcript**

Weighted grading shall be reflected in the student's GPA and not numerically per course on either the student's report card or transcript.

**RIC for automatic admission to state universities**

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class ranking as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law.

**Early Graduation**

To be eligible to graduate in three years, a student shall complete all coursework and exit-level testing required based on when the student entered the ninth grade.

The student shall be ranked with the graduating class according to his or her GPA. The GPA will be calculated according to the guidelines in place when the student entered the ninth grade. A three-year graduate shall be allowed to tie in rank with a four-year graduate but shall not be allowed to displace in rank a four-year student. Three-year graduates shall not be eligible for the honors positions of valedictorian or salutatorian. An early graduating senior shall be eligible to apply for all other scholarships.

## **Graduation Requirements for students entering grade 9 in 2014-2015 school year and thereafter**

### **Foundation Graduation Program and Endorsements**

Every student in a Texas public school who enters grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the "foundation graduation program." Within the foundation graduation program are "endorsements," which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits. State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university. A student must specify upon entering grade 9 the endorsement he or she wishes to pursue.

### **Distinguished Level of Achievement**

In order to obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be denoted on a student's transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission purposes to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the four mathematics credits.

### **Performance Acknowledgements**

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn "performance acknowledgments" that will be acknowledged on a student's transcript. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Foundation HS Program</b>	<b>Foundation HS Program Course Requirements</b>
English Language Arts	4 credits	Four credits: English I, II, III, and IV are required.
Mathematics	3 credits	Three credits are required. The three credits must include Algebra I and Geometry. Two half credits may be earned for the third credit from Algebra 2, Precalculus, AQR or other courses approved for state math credit..
Science	3 credits	One credit must be Biology. One credit can be IPC or an advanced science course. The other credit would be an additional advanced science course
Social Studies	4 credits	Four credits: World History, World Geography, United States History, U.S. Government, and Economics (free enterprise) are required.
LOTE (Languages other than English)	2 credits	Two credits of the same language are required.
Physical Education	1 credit	One credit is required.
Speech	Proficiency in speech skills required.	Demonstrated speech skills in designated courses.
CTE Technology	1 credit	One credit from BIM 1 or approved substitute.
Fine Arts	1 credit	One credit from the areas of art or music.
Electives	8 credits	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Endorsement Course Requirements</b>
English Language Arts	Four credits: English I, II, III, and IV are required.
Mathematics	Four credits are required. The fourth credit can be one full credit or two half-credits from Algebra 2, Precalculus, AQR or courses approved for state math credit. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires Algebra 2.
Science	Four credits are required. The fourth credit can be one full credit or two half-credits from Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems, or Anatomy & Physiology.
Social Studies	Four credits: World History, World Geography, United States History, U.S. Government, and Economics (free enterprise) are required.
LOTE	Two credits of the same language are required.
Physical Education	One credit is required.
Speech	Demonstrated speech skills in designated courses.
Fine Arts	One credit from the areas of art or music.
Technology	One credit.
Electives	Six credits.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>ENDORSEMENTS</b>	
<p><b>Arts and Humanities</b> Five Social Studies credits or a coherent sequence of 4 credits in Art, Band or a combination of the two disciplines.</p>	<p><b>Public Services</b> Coherent Sequence of 4 or more credits in Human Services CTE courses.</p>
<p><b>Business and Industry</b> Coherent sequence of four English elective courses or a coherent sequence of four credits from CTE Cluster of courses.</p>	<p><b>STEM</b> Requires Algebra 2, Chemistry, Physics and two math credits for which Algebra 2 is a prerequisite.</p>
<p><b>Multidisciplinary</b> Four credits in each of the four Foundation subject areas to include English 4 and Chemistry and /or Physics OR four dual credit credits.</p>	
<b>ENHANCEMENTS</b>	
<p><b>Distinguished Level of Achievement</b> Four credits in math including Algebra 2, four credits in science and completion of at least one Endorsement.</p>	<p><b>Performance Acknowledgements</b> For Outstanding Performance on: Dual Credit coursework, PSAT, SAT, ACT-Plan or ACT.</p>

**GPA and Rank in Class (RIC) for students entering grade 9 in 2014-2015 and thereafter**

A weighted GPA will be used to determine Rank In Class (RIC) for students entering grade 9 during the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter. The table below lists the courses to be included in GPA/RIC, the extra weighted points to be included for certain courses, and the credit to be earned in each course. Eligible courses used in determining the GPA will be included regardless of when the credit was earned. If a student passes a course which is included in GPA calculation and retakes the course, the grades from the first time the student took the course will be the grades used in the GPA calculation. Courses taken as a substitute for any course listed in the chart will not be included in the GPA/RIC calculation.

**COURSES INCLUDED IN GPA/RIC**

	credits	Pts. Added per semester
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
English 1	1.0	0
English 2	1.0	0
English 3	1.0	0
English 4	1.0	0
English 1 Honors	1.0	10
English 2 Honors	1.0	10
English 3 Honors	1.0	10
English 4 Honors	1.0	10
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>		
Algebra 1	1.0	0
Geometry	1.0	0
Algebra 2	1.0	0
Advanced Quantitative Reasoning	1.0	0
Algebra 1 taken prior to 9th grade	1.0	10
Geometry Honors	1.0	10
Algebra 2 Honors	1.0	10
Precalculus	1.0	10
Calculus (Independent Study in Math)	1.0	10

	credits	Pts. Added per semester
<b>SCIENCE</b>		
IPC	1.0	0
Biology	1.0	0
Chemistry	1.0	0
Physics	1.0	0
Environmental Systems	1.0	0
Anatomy & Physiology	1.0	0
Biology Honors	1.0	10
Chemistry Honors	1.0	10
Physics Honors	1.0	10
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		
World Geography	1.0	0
World History	1.0	0
U.S. History	1.0	0
U.S. Government	0.5	0
Economics	0.5	0
History 1302	1.0	15
Government 2305	0.5	15
Economics 2301	0.5	15

**Determination of Honor Graduates for students entering grade 9 in 2014-2015 and thereafter**

A student must complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement in order to be valedictorian, salutatorian, or an honor graduate. The student with the highest weighted GPA will be the valedictorian, the student with the second highest weighted GPA will be the salutatorian, and honor graduates will be those students who have a weighted GPA no lower than 95. In the event there is an absolute numerical tie for valedictorian and or salutatorian, the two students will be designated as co-valedictorians or co-salutatorians as the case may be.

**Personal Graduation Plans for students under the Foundation Graduation Program**

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement, as well as facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student's personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement. A student may amend his or her personal graduation plan after this initial confirmation. The school will send written notice of any such amendment made by the student to the student's parent OR a student may, with parental permission, amend his or her personal graduation plan after the initial confirmation.