

House Bill 5 /Foundation HS Program (FHSP)

FAQs

CATEGORIES OF QUESTIONS:

[HB5 & FHSP](#)

[TRANSITION TO FHSP](#)

[ENDORSEMENTS](#)

[CTE & NON-CTE](#)

[DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT](#)

[SPECIFIC COURSE QUESTIONS](#)

HOUSE BILL 5 & FHSP

What is House Bill 5?

House Bill 5 (HB 5) was signed into law by Governor Perry on June 10, 2013. HB 5 dramatically revises the number of high school student assessments required for graduation as well as overall graduation plans in Texas. In the long-term, these revisions will impact the state accountability system for schools, charters and districts.

When will these changes take place?

The changes to testing will take effect immediately. The new high school graduation requirements will start in the 2014-15 school year with the freshman class.

What is the Foundation Plan?

The Foundation High School Program replaces the current minimum, recommended, and distinguished graduation plans. Additionally, it allows students to earn endorsements in the following areas:

- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),
- Business and industry,
- Public services,
- Arts and humanities and/or
- Multidisciplinary studies

What courses are included in the Foundational Graduation Plan diploma?

The requirements of the new Foundation Graduation Plan diploma are specifically outlined in the HS Course Selection Guide (You may want to add the link).

Does graduating with the Foundation Plan qualify my student for 4-year educational institutions?

Yes. All students graduating with the Foundation Plan will be eligible to apply to all in-state, out-of-state, public and private four year colleges and universities.

What about the Top 10% rule?

Students who complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement on the Foundation Plan are eligible for admissions to in-state public universities under the Top 10% automatic admissions provision.

TRANSITION TO FHSP

Does my student have to switch to the new Foundation Plan?

All students who will enter high school in 2014-2015 are required to graduate on the FHSP.

Can my current high school student change their graduation plan to the Foundation Plan?

Students may request to change their graduation plan from their current graduation plan. High School Counselors are able to provide your student with more information.

How do I know if I should switch to the Foundation Plan?

Parents and students should check the requirements of any post high school institution they plan to attend prior to requesting to switch plans. Contact your High School Counselor if you would like more information.

If I am a current high school student and want to switch to the Foundation Plan, what should I do?

If you are a current sophomore or junior, confirm the requirements of any university you are interested in prior to requesting to change your graduation plan. Parents and students are responsible for determining whether they have necessary requirements for post-secondary institutions.

Current high school students should complete the registration process with their high school counselor, meeting all required deadlines. Make an appointment with your High School Counselor to request moving to the Foundation Graduation Plan. Changes will not be made to current graduation plans of current high school students without school counselor review and advisement. Counselor staff will help students identify their interests and match them to an endorsement plan. Parent approval is required. Your patience is appreciated as we work through the registration process.

[Back to Top](#)

Why haven't I received more information on current high school students and their option to transition to the new FHSP?

The State Board of Education just recently approved the final FHSP on January 30, 2014. With that final approval came numerous changes. BISD has been working to put together up-to-date Course Selections Guides for the 14-15 school year to inform parents and students of the FHSP. Because of the late approval of the FHSP by the SBOE, BISD high school campuses have moved forward with registration based on the student's current graduation plan. Information will be posted on the district website and on high school campus websites when it becomes available.

ENDORSEMENTS

Does a student have to choose one of the five endorsements on top of the Foundation Plan?

BISD believes choosing to graduate with an endorsement will help position your student for success in his or her future. However, a student is not required to graduate with an endorsement and can elect to graduate with only the Foundation Plan diploma after 10th grade and with parent and administrative permission.

When will students choose an endorsement?

Students under the Foundation Graduation Plan will select an endorsement during the 9th grade registration process. That selection will be confirmed with the high school counselor prior to the end of the student's 9th grade year. Students are allowed to change their endorsement throughout their high school career. Contact your High School Counselor to be advised on the process for changing a selected endorsement.

Can my student change their endorsement?

Yes. Students will be allowed to change their endorsement throughout their high school career. Contact your High School Counselor to be advised on the process for changing a selected endorsement.

Some of the endorsements have different core course requirements in the math, science, English and social studies area. If I want more than one endorsement, which core courses do I select?

To keep your options open, you may want to select the core courses that will qualify you for multiple endorsements. The most rigorous core course requirements are in the STEM endorsement area.

[Back to Top](#)

Do I have to choose the Arts and Humanities endorsement since I'm going to be in band all 4 years?

No. You will likely qualify for the Arts and Humanities endorsement based on your completion of band classes, but you can select another endorsement to pursue as well.

Which endorsement will colleges prefer?

The FHSP diploma is still very new. Colleges are still likely to look at specific core courses taken, the rigor of those courses, student GPA, SAT/ACT scores, extracurricular activities, and student involvement to evaluate the student on an individual basis. Students and parents need to be aware of any admission requirements for the university or college they plan to attend.

Are students only allowed to graduate with one endorsement?

No. Students may earn multiple endorsements.

Will my endorsement limit me from enrolling in certain colleges?

The FHSP diploma is still very new. Colleges are still likely to look at specific core courses taken, the rigor of those courses, student GPA, SAT/ACT scores, extracurricular activities, and student involvement to evaluate the student on an individual basis. Students and parents need to be aware of any admission requirements for the university or college they plan to attend.

What happens if the student changes their mind when they are a Junior or Senior?

Students are allowed to change their endorsement throughout their high school career but should select core courses that do not limit their options. Contact your High School Counselor to be advised on the process for changing a selected endorsement.

What if I/my student am/are undecided and do not want to specify an endorsement?

TEA requires that all 8th graders select an endorsement upon entering 9th grade. For BISD students, this will occur initially during the 9th grade registration process. However, students are allowed to change their endorsement throughout their high school career.

CTE AND NON-CTE

When students select an endorsement, will they also have to select a pathway (CTE vs. non-CTE)?

Although students do not have to specifically select CTE or Non-CTE, the pathway itself will depend on the types of courses the student is interested in. Students are encouraged to complete a coherent sequence of course that will result in an endorsement.

[Back to Top](#)

Which is better CTE or Non-CTE pathway?

The pathway a student selects is highly dependent on the student's goals and interests after high school.

DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Is there a “distinguished diploma” students can obtain under HB 5?

Yes. To earn a distinguished level of achievement, a student must complete:

- All Foundation Plan requirements
- Four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- Four credits in science
- Requirements for at least one endorsement

Students on the Foundation and/or Distinguished Plan may also receive Performance Acknowledgements that are designated on the student's diploma for the following accomplishments:

- Outstanding Performance:
 - In a dual credit course
 - In bilingualism and biliteracy
 - On an AP test or IB exam
 - On the PSAT, the ACT-Plan, the SAT, or the ACT
- For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

SPECIFIC COURSE QUESTIONS

How do I know if I should take World Geography or World History?

BISD recommends that most freshmen take World Geography (regular or Pre-AP). This is the default freshman Social Studies course. However, freshmen may choose to take World History (regular or Pre-AP), Advanced Placement Human Geography, or Advanced Placement World History.

I want to take AP World Geography or AP World History as a freshman, is that allowed?

Yes, freshmen may take AP Human Geography or AP World History. However, the student should be aware of the rigorous nature of these college-level courses.

[Back to Top](#)

Since I do not have to take both World Geography and World History, do I have a Social Studies class my sophomore year?

Yes, all students will take a Social Studies class their sophomore year. Most students will take United States History (regular, Pre-AP, AP) as sophomores. This is the default sophomore Social Studies course. If a student successfully completes AP Human Geography or AP World History as a freshman and wants to take the other AP course as a sophomore, the student may delay taking United States History until his or her junior year.

Why did BISD decide not to require both World Geography and World History?

BISD Board of Trustees supported the intent of the legislature to allow students more flexibility in their graduation plans, giving them the opportunity to explore interests and possible career fields. Students may elect to take both course and are encouraged to do so if their schedule permits.

What courses can I take to satisfy the Computer Programming Language substitution for the World Language or LOTE (Languages Other Than English)?

To satisfy the requirement for Languages Other Than English, students may earn two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer Science I, II, or III.

BISD does not currently offer Computer Science I, II, or III. Does that mean this is not an option?

Students wishing to go this route should wait until after their freshman year to meet this requirement. These courses may be available in BISD in the 2015-2016 school year.

Can I do two things like band and athletics? Cheerleading and choir?

There is a sample four year plan in the Course Selection Guide. Use the ~~instructions and~~ information in the guide to see how you can fit the activities in your four year plan.

Will Students under the Foundation Graduation Plan have to take Speech?

The Brazosport Independent School District Board of Trustees has decided that students under the Foundation Graduation Plan will be required to complete .5 credits of Speech, as a local elective credit. Additionally, BISD students are also required to complete .5 credits of Health as a local elective credit.

[Back to Top](#)