

# **Recent Changes in Texas High School Law - House Bill 5 Overview**

## **Summary - New Texas Education Laws – HB5 Quick Look**

- 1. Reduced end-of-course(EOC) tests from fifteen to five**
- 2. Dropped the requirement that EOC score comprise 15% of the final grade**
- 3. Removed the 4X4 requirements**
- 4. Established new graduation plan and requirements**
- 5. The Foundation Plan is the basic course requirements every student must meet to graduate (22 credits).**
- 6. Students will develop a personal pathway or program of study based on their career interests, which will earn them an endorsement on their diploma in one of five areas:**
  - A. Arts & Humanities**
  - B. Business & Industry**
  - C. Public Service**
  - D. STEM (Science and Math)**
  - E. Multidisciplinary**
- 7. Endorsements are additional courses based on student's career interests. (26 credits)**
- 8. All incoming freshmen with their parents must select, in writing, an endorsement.**
- 9. Endorsement selections may be changed.**
- 10. By including Algebra II in their endorsement, students earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement, which is required to be eligible for the Top 10% Rule.**
- 11. At the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, students with their parents may opt out of the endorsement to graduate with a Foundation diploma. It is strongly recommended to graduate with an endorsement.**
- 12. Franklin High School offers many programs of study that represent all five endorsement areas.**

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### More details-

During the spring 2013 Texas Legislative session, state leaders in Austin approved House Bill 5, a bill that reduces the number of STAAR end-of-course tests required for graduation, and significantly changes high school graduation plans offered in the state of Texas. The State Board of Education has made preliminary recommendations for implementing the new law, and gave first approval in January of 2014 to the new graduation requirements.

Our goal is to inform our parents, students and educators on how the new law impacts graduation planning and testing in our school district, and why this change will ultimately help our students more easily transition from high school to college or the workforce.

HB5, as the bill is known, was designed to instill more flexibility in public education by providing graduation planning that enabling students to follow a traditional path into colleges and universities, or move more directly into the workforce. HB5 reduces the number of end-of-course exams from 15 to five, and eliminates a controversial requirement that student test results constitute 15 percent of a student's overall grade.

The majority of our focus here will be on graduation planning. Successful performance on five STAAR End-of Course (EOC) tests is required for high school graduation. Students who do not pass an end-of-course exam will be given the support and assistance they need to successfully complete a retest. The five remaining EOC tests are English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History.

HB 5 creates a new graduation plan called the FOUNDATION PLAN. The FOUNDATION PLAN replaces the previous Minimum, Recommended and Distinguished plans offered to students as options for graduation, and is the plan under which students entering high school during the 2014-15 academic year will graduate. Students who were enrolled in grades 9-11 prior to the 2014-15 academic year have the option to graduate under the FOUNDATION PLAN if they so elect. The FOUNDATION PLAN expands the availability of career and technology (CTE) courses, and encourages students to select a personal pathway of study, called an ENDORSEMENT. All students entering the 9th grade in 2014 will be required to select an endorsement pathway.

The FOUNDATION PLAN doesn't make the traditional 4x4 math, science, social studies, and language arts model a requirement. The new plan offers a strong foundation of study with the benefit of added flexibility for students to personalize their own educational experience. With the new FOUNDATION PLAN, our students have the ability to explore areas of interest and study before they reach college, or the opportunity to earn credits toward an Associate's degree or certification while they are still in high school. The FOUNDATION PLAN consists of 4 English credits, 3 math credits, 3 social studies credits, 3 science credits, 1 fine art credit, 2 foreign language credits, 1 P.E. credit, and 5 elective credits.

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Remember, advancement at the high school level is based on the number of credits a student earns in particular content areas. If students complete their end-of-course exams successfully, but don't finish their coursework and fail the class, they will NOT earn credit for that course. If students complete the course successfully but fail the end-of-course exam, they earn credit for the course, but still must pass the exam to meet graduation requirements.

Students must successfully complete their coursework and pass all required end-of-course exams to earn their high school diploma. Graduation under the FOUNDATION PLAN with endorsements totals 26 credits. To be considered for the Top 10 % rule, students must graduate with an ENDORSEMENT and complete Algebra II successfully.

The FOUNDATION plan offers students the choice of an endorsement, or targeted area of study. Much as a student would pick a major in college, the new option for an endorsement offers a student the ability to earn a total of 26 total credits (a combination of core requirements and endorsement electives) in a targeted area of study for high school graduation. The courses that provide support and preparation in the chosen area is called a Program of Study (POS). The POS will be the courses the student takes during high school that will earn the chosen endorsement. The five options for students when selecting an endorsement are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- STEM (Science and Math)
- Multidisciplinary

School districts are required to offer the multidisciplinary endorsement if only one endorsement is available. Franklin High School has identified up to twenty programs of study that support all five endorsements. Regrettably, most Texas high schools cannot support every POS available due to limited resources. However, every student in every high school can make individual choices to take classes to support and prepare them for their career of interest. Franklin High School offers a wide variety of POS that support both college and career preparation.

Students entering 9th Grade for the 2014-15 academic year will select, in writing, an endorsement as part of their high school graduation plan. The student and their parent will be advised of the benefits of the plan. Endorsements can be changed at any time. Written parent consent and a parent meeting are required when a student elects to graduate on the FOUNDATION plan without endorsements. Endorsement course work consists of an addition of 1 Math credit, 1 Science Credit, and 2 Electives. Algebra II is no longer a required course, but nearly all students' programs of study has Algebra II to support their selected endorsement.

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Students transitioning from 8th to 9th Grade will be required to choose one of these endorsements as part of their graduation planning. All students in Franklin ISD are encouraged to think about their interests and their Explore Test results as part of career and college exploration. Parents are asked to review the results of the Explore Test and other career interest tests with their student as they assist them in choosing an endorsement pathway.

Once an endorsement pathway is selected, a student may change their endorsement at any time, or may opt at the end of their 10th Grade year to graduate under the FOUNDATION Plan with no endorsement. Students who graduate with no endorsement will be eligible to apply to all 4-year schools in the state of Texas, but will not qualify for Top Ten consideration. It is strongly recommended that all students graduate with an endorsement. Doing so ensures students have the maximum opportunity and options available to them.

All Franklin students deserve an education that fits their personal needs. One size does not fit all when it comes to learning or our student's futures, and we believe the new FOUNDATION PLAN with endorsements offers students the chance to customize their learning and be better prepared for their future upon high school graduation.

For more information, contact our high school counselor.

### Samples of Franklin High School Programs of Study

1-Ag-Agribusiness\_01.15 BI  
2-Ag-Animal\_Systems\_01.15\_2 BI  
4-Ag-Power,\_Structural\_and\_Technical\_Systems\_01.15\_1 BI  
5-Ag-Plant\_Systems\_01.15\_2 BI  
10-Arts-Audio,\_Video\_Technology\_and\_Film.xlsm\_01.15\_1 BI  
11-Arts-Video\_Arts\_01.15 AH  
12-Arts-Printing\_Technology\_01.15\_1 BI  
13-Arts-Performing\_Arts\_01.15 AH  
14-Arts-Performing\_Arts-Instrumental\_01.15 AH  
15-Arts-Performing\_Arts-Theatre\_01.15 AH  
17-Arts-Journalism\_01.15\_1 BI  
18-Arts-Journalism\_\_Broadcasting\_01.15\_1 BI  
25-Educ-Teaching\_and\_Training\_01.15 PS  
40-Hlth-Therapeutic\_Services\_01.15 PS  
46-Hosp-Recreation,\_Amusements,\_and\_Attractons\_01.15\_1 BI  
47-Hosp-Resturants,\_Food\_and\_Beverage\_01.15\_1 BI  
49-Human-Early\_Childhood\_Development\_and\_Services\_01.15 PS  
53-IT-Network\_Systems\_01.15\_1 BI  
56-IT-Web\_and\_Digital\_Media\_01.15\_1 BI  
75-Multi-General\_Studies\_01.15 MultiDisc  
76-STEM-Science\_and\_Mathematics\_01.15 STEM