

HIGH SCHOOL
GRADES 9-12

PLANO ISD
ACADEMIC GUIDE

2024



2025

Table of Contents

Plano Independent School District	3
Vision, Mission, and Pillars	3
College, Career, and Military Readiness	4
Goals and Objectives	4
CCMR Indicators	5
SchoolLinks	8
New, Revised, & Sunset Course Information	8
Academic Planning	10
Guide and Course Catalog	10
Academic Planning	10
Graduation Requirements	10
Instructional & Academic Overview	13
Courses	13
Advanced Academics	13
Electives	14
Fine Arts	14
Required Courses	14
Language Other Than English	14
Programs	15
Athletics	15
AVID®	15
Career & Technical Education	15
English as a Second Language (ESL)	21
Gifted and Talented	22
Health	22
Junior ROTC	22
Off-Campus PE	22
Physical Education	23
Vines Academy	23
Specialized Academies	23
Academy High School	23
eSchool	24
Health Sciences Academy	24
Industries Academy	24

International Baccalaureate	24
Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy	25
TONI&GUY™ Cosmetology Program	25
General Academic Information	25
Changing Class Schedules	25
Classification of Students	26
Early Graduation	26
Endorsements	26
Grading System	27
Local/No State Credit Courses	28
UIL Eligibility	28
Promotion and Retention	28
Special Education Services	29
STAAR EOC Assessments	29
Summer School and Correspondence Courses	30
College Information	30
Required Course Fee	32

The Plano ISD Course Catalog can be found [online](#) and contains the current year along with previous years.

It is the policy of Plano ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Plano ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. Plano ISD will take steps to ensure cost will not prevent access to programs.

The purpose of this guide is to serve as a reference tool, not to replace policy.

Plano Independent School District

Vision, Mission, and Pillars

Vision

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
DEDICATED TO CARING
POWERED BY LEARNING
PLANO ISD PROUD.



Mission

Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

Pillars

Pillar 1: Teaching & Learning

All Plano ISD students will be challenged to make appropriate individual growth through high quality programming and instruction that is relevant, engaging and differentiated to meet students' learning needs.

Pillar 2: Life Ready

All Plano ISD students will have access to programs and experiences that will build a future-ready workforce and successfully bridge students to their chosen pathways.

Pillar 3: Talent Acquisition, Support & Growth

The care, development and support of our Plano ISD staff are the foundation of our ability to recruit, hire and retain the necessary talent to provide a caring, nurturing yet rigorous environment for all students.

Pillar 4: Safety, Wellness & Community Engagement

All Plano ISD facilities will provide a safe and welcoming environment for students, staff and families to experience a sense of belonging.

Pillar 5: Partnerships & Strategic Resource Management

Plano ISD will maximize resources and community partnerships to achieve district goals that meet the needs of students and staff.

College, Career, and Military Readiness

Goals and Objectives

Students will engage in college and career planning activities each year starting in 6th grade.

[SchoolLinks](#) is the college and career readiness platform that Plano ISD uses to help students

learn about the many opportunities available to them in the district. Every student in grades 6-12 has a SchoolLinks account, and parents also have access to the SchoolLinks parent portal. Students are encouraged to access their SchoolLinks account throughout the school year in order to complete the activities assigned to them.

Grades 6 through 7

Begin to investigate college/career goals and objectives that align with personal interests. Consider careers that fit your personality and ability and the pathways to those careers.

Grade 8

Continue to investigate college, career, and military information in order to choose a CTE Program of Study and an endorsement that aligns with your chosen career pathway. Attend campus meetings regarding academic planning, high school graduation requirements, and develop a high school four-year plan. Attend Plano ISD Academy program information sessions to learn more about these innovative programs and see if one of them is right for you. Learn more about advanced academic course options such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Credit.

Grade 9

Review career goals and possible industry-based certifications within CTE Programs of Study, while continuing to research colleges and careers of interest. Revisit your academic four-year plan and ensure it still aligns with your future career interest. Be aware of the importance of your high school transcript, grades, and attendance. Attend meetings on your campus regarding post-secondary planning and college admission. Take the PSAT 9 in October and create your [College Board student account](#).

Grade 10

Review career goals and your four-year plan. Look for possible industry-based certifications that support your career interest and continue to research colleges and careers of interest. Attend meetings on your campus regarding post-secondary planning including college admission, scholarships, and financial aid availability. Take the PSAT™ 10 in October. Study for the PSAT using the Official SAT Practice at [Khan Academy](#).

Grade 11

Review academic plans and narrow college and career choices. Attend College Nights in September, and take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). Participate in the SAT® School Day during the spring semester. Consider taking the ACT® test in the spring. Find free test review materials at [Khan Academy](#). For those interested in military service take the ASVAB test. Attend meetings on your campus regarding post-secondary planning including college admissions requirements, scholarships, and financial aid availability. Make a list of 5-8 colleges/post-secondary programs that are a great match and fit for your goals, interests, and academic standing.

Grade 12

Finalize post-secondary plans. Apply to your top 5-8 colleges or post-secondary programs. If applying to Texas schools, create an [ApplyTexas](#) account. Attend College Nights in September. Take the SAT® and/or ACT® in early fall if needed. Attend financial aid sessions and apply for FAFSA or TASFA when made available. For those interested in military service, take the ASVAB test. Be mindful of deadlines for college admission, housing, and university scholarship applications. Submit scholarship applications throughout the school year. Complete the senior survey in the spring declaring where you are going after high school graduation.

CCMR Indicators

A primary goal of Plano ISD is for every student to demonstrate College, Career, and/or Military Readiness (CCMR) by or before graduation. Meeting CCMR criteria shows that you are ready for the next step in your life after graduating from high school. There are three pathways that students can take to demonstrate their CCMR in Plano ISD: College Readiness, Career Readiness, and/or Military Readiness. Each pathway has options students can choose from which are outlined in the following tables. Schedule a meeting with your counselor to discuss the pathway that is right for you.

College Readiness

Take Advanced Academics Courses:

Research indicates that taking advanced courses helps better prepare students for college classes. Students who take AP, IB, or Dual Credit courses are more likely to persist in college and complete a degree. Students may also earn college credit if they meet the criteria.

Options	Details
Advanced Placement (AP)	Take the AP exam for an AP course and earn a score of 3, 4, or 5
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Take the IB exam for an IB course and earn a score of 4, 5, or 6
Dual Credit	Complete one of the following and earn dual credit by passing the course(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ENGL (3 credits) ● MATH (3 credits) ● 3 dual credit courses for a total of 9 credits

Texas Success Initiative (TSI):

TSI is the criteria that Texas uses as the benchmark for determining if students are ready to take college courses. Students must take the SAT, ACT, or the TSI-Assessment and meet the required score for both English/Reading/Writing **and** Math. Students may use a passing score for one subject (ELAR or Math) and a passing score for the other subject from different tests. (Ex. A student may combine an SAT Math passing score with a passing English score from ACT). Students who meet the TSI benchmarks will not have to take developmental courses in college, thus saving time and money! For students who struggle with tests, the College Prep courses may be a great option.

Options	Details
SAT	<p>11th or 12th Grade: SAT Take the SAT and earn the following scores: Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing = 480 or higher Math = 530 or higher</p> <p>Take the PSAT to practice for the SAT. The following are benchmarks that indicate you are on-track to meet college readiness standards on SAT: 9th Grade: PSAT 9</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence-Based Reading & Writing = 410 or higher ● Math = 450 or higher 10th Grade: PSAT/NMSQT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence-Based Reading & Writing = 430 or higher ● Math = 480 or higher 11th Grade: PSAT/NMSQT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence-Based Reading & Writing = 460 or higher ● Math = 510 or higher
ACT	<p>Take the ACT and earn the following scores: <i>(starting Feb 15, 2023)</i></p> <p>English + Reading Sections = combined score of 40 or higher</p> <p>Math Section = 22 or higher</p>
TSI-Assessment	<p>Take the TSI-A2 and earn the following scores:</p> <p>Reading/Writing = 945 or higher</p> <p>Essay = 5 or higher</p> <p>Math = 950 or higher</p>
College Prep Classes	<p>Take a College Prep English or Math class if you do not do well on college assessment tests. These are self-paced, personalized online courses.</p> <p>Math = earn 90% mastery on part 1 and part 2</p> <p>English = earn 90% mastery on part 1 and part 2 <u>and</u></p> <p>English = meet criteria on an essay</p>

Career Readiness

Take steps to prepare for a future career. Plano ISD offers many options for students to prepare for the career they want and to demonstrate career readiness.

Options	Details
Program of Study + Industry-Based Certification	Pass 3 or more CTE courses in a Program of Study earning 4 or more credits, including a Level 3 or Level 4 course AND earn an aligned Industry-Based Certification
Level I or II Certificate	Take a sequence of college workforce courses to earn a Level I (typically 4 courses) or Level II (typically 12 courses) Certificate
IEP and Workforce Readiness for Special Education Students	<p>PEIMS coding of 54 or 55 - student's IEP must indicate full-time employment or demonstration of mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills</p> <p>54 = Modified/Alternate Curriculum Requirements, Completion of IEP, and Full-time employment</p> <p>55= Modified/Alternate Curriculum Requirements, Completion of IEP, and Demonstrated Mastery of Specific Employability and Self-Help Skills as per IEP</p>
Advanced Degree Plan for Special Education Students	A graduate who is identified as receiving special education services during the year of graduation and whose graduation plan type is identified as a Foundation High School Plan with an Endorsement (FHSP-E) or Foundation High School Plan with a Distinguished Level of Achievement (FHSP-DLA).

Military Readiness

The military is another career option for students. Consider the military options listed below and complete the action steps.

Options	Details
Air Force Army Coast Guard Marine Corps Navy Texas National Guard	The following are action steps that should be taken: Research the different military branch options Take and pass the ASVAB exam Meet with a military recruiter Enlist Complete and submit DD Form 4

SchoolLinks

[SchoolLinks](#) is a robust and fun-to-use tool to help students and parents navigate college and career readiness starting in sixth grade through senior year. This web-based college and career readiness platform provides activities and information that are grade-level appropriate to help



students identify careers that match their interests and abilities. Students can complete activities that help them identify the options and pathways for their future. Students can also research colleges and scholarships, request letters of recommendation, manage their college applications, and complete tasks that will enhance their college, career, and military preparation experience.

New, Revised, & Sunset Course Information

New Courses

- Animation I
- AP Capstone: AP Research
- AP Precalculus
- Astronomy
- Business Information Management I Dual Credit (Collegiate Academy students only)
- Business Information Management II
- Counseling & Mental Health
- Earth Systems Science
- Partners Professional Communications
- Special Topics in Social Studies: Texas Government Dual Credit
- Video Game Programming
- World History Dual Credit (Collegiate Academy students only)

Course Revisions

- AP Physics 1 ([IMPORTANT: PISD Physics Course Realignment Information](#))
- AP Physics 2 ([IMPORTANT: PISD Physics Course Realignment Information](#))
- AP Physics C ([IMPORTANT: PISD Physics Course Realignment Information](#))
- Business Information Management I
- Introduction to Culinary Arts
- Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Sunset Courses

The school year listed next to each course indicates the year that it will no longer be offered to students at any campus.

- American Principles - will sunset 2024-2025
- Digital Media - will sunset 2024-2025
- Economics Blended Course - will sunset 2024-2025
- Government Blended Course - will sunset 2024-2025
- Honors English III - will sunset 2024-2025
- Honors English IV - will sunset 2025-2026
- Honors Physics - will sunset 2024-2025
- AP Physics 1-2 - will sunset 2024-2025 for juniors and 2025-2026 for seniors
- Honors Precalculus - will sunset 2024-2025
- Interpersonal Studies - will sunset 2024-2025
- Virtual Business - will sunset 2024-2025
- Web Design - will sunset 2024-2025

GPA Course Information

- New courses that receive GPA weights will be included in [EIC \[EXHIBIT\]](#).
- Sunset courses that were included in Class Rank will continue to count for Class Rank for students who complete the courses prior to them being sunset.

Academic Planning

Effective academic counseling assists students in making decisions during middle and high school as well as in preparing for college and the workforce following graduation. When parents/guardians, counselors, teachers, and administrators work together to support students as they make their own decisions, students take stronger ownership of their future and their academic careers. All students in grades 6 through 12 are encouraged to make informed academic decisions as part of Plano ISD's academic advising process in order to graduate from high school prepared for college, a profession, or the military.

Guide and Course Catalog

To assist students, parents/guardians, and staff in making informed decisions about student academic pursuits, Plano ISD offers two crucial tools that complement one another.

- With a shared understanding and practical implementation of Plano ISD's academic expectations, practices, procedures, and board policies, the Academic Guide assists students, parents, administrators, counselors, and teachers. Beyond the course titles and descriptions given in the Course Catalog, the Academic Guide offers further details and context. Additionally, it helps families and students choose appropriate programs and courses before, during, and beyond their high school years in conjunction with discussions with school counselors.
- The Course Catalog is a thorough listing of all the courses that students can select from as part of their annual course selection process. The course offerings can be obtained on Plano's online, searchable [catalog](#). For course selection, students will work with their counselor, parents, and other staff as needed in order to create individualized academic plans and course selections.

Academic Planning

Students will work with their Counselor to create their high school plan while in eighth grade using the SchoolLinks course planner. Every year in high school, students will be given the opportunity to make changes and adjustments to their plan as allowable.

Graduation Requirements

The goal of Plano ISD is that all students will graduate on the Foundation + Endorsement Distinguished Level of Achievement graduation plan and that all students will be college and career ready. Students will work with their counselors starting in sixth grade to create six-year plans that lead them to graduation and a pathway to a postsecondary credential aligned with the student's career interest. These six-year plans will be created in SchoolLinks so that parents and students can access them and review them with counselors each year.

Course Requirements

For additional information, see [House Bill: Foundation High School Program](#) and TEA's [Graduation Toolkit](#). The following courses are required for graduation from Plano ISD.

Subject Area	Foundation/Endorsement Plan
English	1st year choice

4 credits	2nd year choice 3rd year choice 4th year choice Required STAAR EOC exams: English 1 and English 2
Mathematics 4 credits	Algebra 1 Geometry 3rd year choice 4th year choice Required STAAR EOC exam: Algebra 1
Science 4 credits	Biology Chemistry or IPC 3rd year choice 4th year choice Required STAAR EOC exam: Biology
Social Studies 4 credits	World Geography World History US History US Government (.5) Economics (.5) or Personal Financial Literacy (.5) Required STAAR EOC exam: US History
Fine Arts 1 credit	Art, Dance, Floral Design, Music, or Theater
Foreign Language 2 credits	Two levels in the same language
Health .5 credit	Health (.5) or 1.0 credit of Health Science Theory
Physical Education 1 credit	See Course Catalog for courses that meet full or partial requirements for PE graduation credit
Communication .5 credit	Professional Communications
Electives/Endorsement Choices 5 credits	See Course Catalog for course options

Total: 26 credits

Plano ISD requires that students complete two additional credits in addition to the State of Texas required credits. Those two additional credits are Professional Communications (.5 credit), Personal Health (.5 credit), and 4th History (1 credit).

Dual credit may meet graduation requirements for required courses, advanced courses, elective credits, and endorsement requirements.

Financial Aid Requirement

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0256, beginning with students enrolled in twelfth grade during the 2021-2022 school year, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate:

- complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
- submit a signed opt-out form.

Performance Acknowledgments note outstanding achievement in specific areas. These distinctions will be included on the high school transcript and better position students for successful entry into college and/or the workforce.

Performance Acknowledgments Areas

- dual credit courses
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT ASPIRE®, SAT, or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams
- State-, nationally- or internationally-recognized business or industry certification or license

Instructional & Academic Overview

Courses

Advanced Academics

Acceleration/Credit By Exam

Students may request to take credit by exam for acceleration. In the areas of English, math, science, social studies, or languages other than English, students who choose to accelerate beyond the course offerings available at a campus may be granted access to the next course in the typical sequence depending on course availability. Scheduling solutions for the next course in sequence is not guaranteed and access to the next sequenced course may be delayed. If the next sequenced course is available on another campus, transportation is not provided.

Students earning course credit through Credit by Exam (CBE) will be scheduled into the next course in the sequence the following year, if available. Because students cannot be scheduled into a course for which they have already earned credit, a schedule change “back” to the course for which the student earned credit via CBE is not permitted. Students who encounter academic struggles in the next course in the sequence should meet with their teachers for additional support. See the school counselor for more information. More information can be found on the [Credit by Exam](#) website.

Advanced Placement Program®

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program of the College Board® enables students to complete college-level courses at each of the High Schools and Senior High Schools. Appropriate grade-level AP courses are offered at the high school campuses. This “academic bridge” helps smooth the transition from high school to college. The primary goals of the AP Program are to enrich the secondary school experience of students ready to apply themselves to college-level courses and to provide the means by which colleges may grant credit and/or placement to students with qualifying AP® test scores. Students interested in taking these courses are required to meet with their school counselor to review course options and discuss how these courses may impact college degree plans. Before students withdraw from an honors or other advanced-level course, they need time to understand the course’s related concepts and skills, and teachers must have an opportunity to help students grow into the course expectations. Students requesting a course withdrawal from any advanced course must complete an “Advanced Course Withdrawal” form provided by their counselor. For more information, see [Advanced Placement Program](#).

Dual Credit Program

Plano ISD has a dual credit agreement with Collin College which allows students to earn both high school and college credit for courses identified in the agreement. Dual Credit courses allow students to get a jump start on their college before they graduate from high school. Students must meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) criteria to be eligible to enroll in dual credit classes. More information about the Dual Credit Program including a list of dual credit courses can be found on the [Dual Credit](#) website. Collin College tuition and textbook fees may be associated with each class. Students interested in taking these courses are required to meet with their school counselor to review course options and discuss the alignment of these courses with their college degree plans.

Honors

A differentiated honors curriculum includes a wider range and greater depth of subject matter

than that of an on-level course. Emphasis is placed on higher level and critical thinking skills, on creative, productive thinking, and on independent guided research. Before students may withdraw from an honors or other advanced-level course, they must have time to understand the course's related concepts and skills, and teachers must have an opportunity to help students grow into the course expectations. Students enrolled in advanced courses requesting a course withdrawal must complete an "Advanced Course Withdrawal" form provided by their counselor.

Electives

In addition to the required courses, students may choose other courses to complete their schedules. Students are encouraged to explore elective course options that help them grow their leadership skills, explore career interests, or satisfy areas of interest. Elective courses can help students become well-rounded individuals or expand their knowledge in a field of interest. The number of elective courses that students may choose varies from year to year.

Fine Arts

Students have the opportunity to enroll in Art (Visual), Band, Choir, Dance, Orchestra, Theatre Arts, or Technical Theatre courses to satisfy the one (1) credit of the fine arts requirement to meet the SBOE (State Board of Education) curriculum requirements of the Foundation High School Program. These courses are taught within an array of visual and performing arts programs as part of the required Enrichment Curriculum by the Texas Education Agency. These programs ensure that students receive rigorous and high-quality arts training while simultaneously developing critical social, emotional, and collaborative skill sets through leadership, performance, competition, and extra/co-curricular participation.

Required Courses

Required courses are necessary to fulfill local and state educational requirements. A course may or may not have a prerequisite. A prerequisite is a course that must be taken prior to the course under consideration.

Language Other Than English

Students have the opportunity to enroll in Spanish, French, Chinese, or ASL to satisfy the two credits of the language requirement to meet the SBOE (State Board of Education) curriculum requirements of the Foundation High School Program. The Plano ISD Language Other than English Program uses a curriculum that is proficiency-based and communicative in nature. The curriculum ensures that students gain an understanding of two basic aspects of human existence: the nature of communication and the complexity of culture. Further benefits of foreign language study include stronger cognitive development, increased creativity, and divergent thinking skills.

After students take two levels of the same language, they have the option to continue in the language. Refer to the table below to see which languages and levels are offered in high school and senior high school:

Foreign Language	9th & 10th Grade	11th & 12th Grade
Spanish	Level 1, 2, 3, 3H	Level 1, 2, 3, 3H, 4, 4AP, 5AP
French	Level 1, 2, 3H	Level 3H, 4AP, 5H
Chinese	Level 1 & 2	Level 3H, 4AP

ASL*	Level 1 & 2	Level 1, 2, 3
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**All ASL courses are conducted in ASL (without voice) 90% of the time.*

Programs

Athletics

Plano ISD offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which the students may participate. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. In order to participate or compete in a UIL sport, the sport must be reflected on the student's class schedule. Completion of a medical history/physical examination is required prior to tryouts/participation. Additional parent permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state-mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

AVID®

The AVID® course is designed to prepare students for success in postsecondary education. AVID® I, II, III, and IV provide support and skill development in areas specifically aligned with success in rigorous courses in the content areas. A recommendation, application, and interview are required for students to be accepted into the AVID® program.

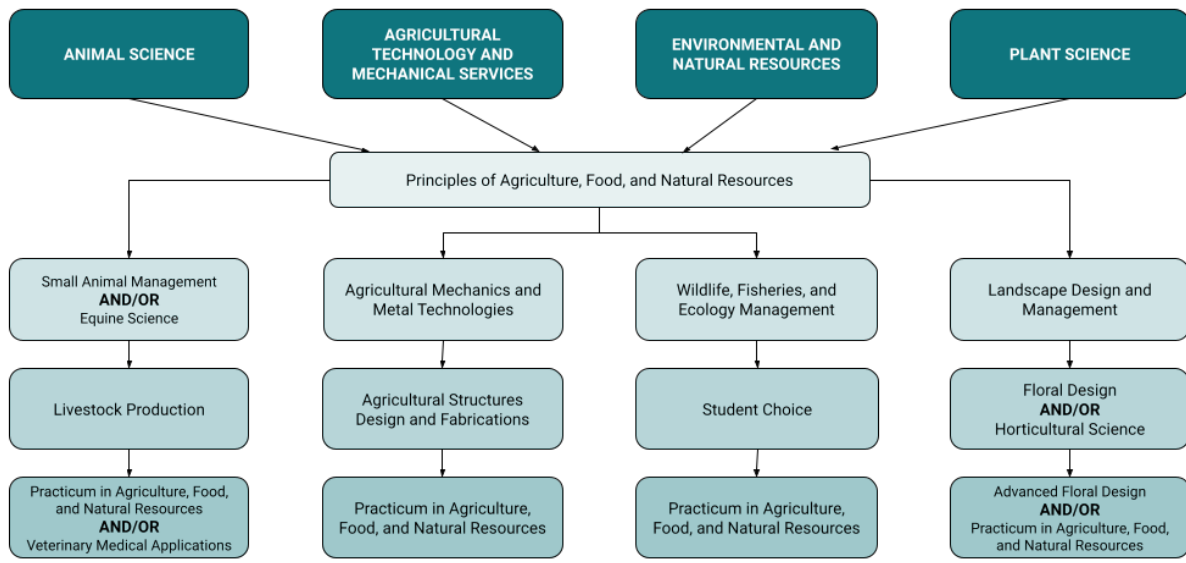
Career & Technical Education

Through learning experiences in innovative and rigorous Career and Technical Education Programs of Study, Plano ISD CTE students will become leaders ready to impact the global workforce in high-wage, high-demand career paths. CTE courses are grouped into career clusters (defined by Texas Education Agency) and within each career cluster courses are grouped into programs of study.

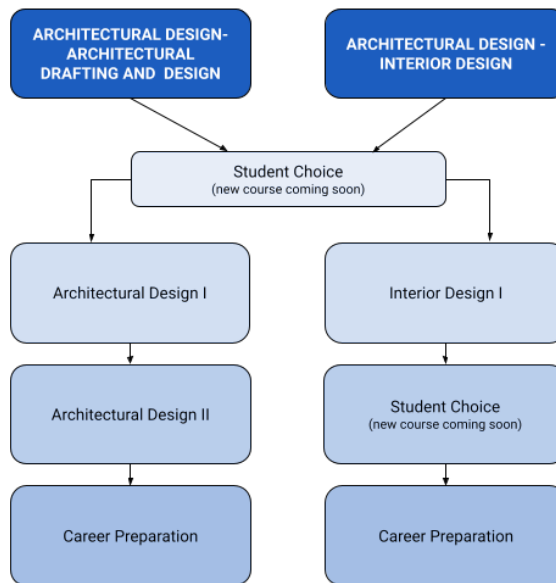
Programs of study will provide students with a course sequence that ties to an endorsement and offers a strong vertical alignment between secondary and postsecondary education. The suggested course pathways (shown below) are intended to provide guidance to students seeking college and career readiness through course content and industry-based certifications. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue programs of study in their interests.

For more detailed information regarding course descriptions, grade level, prerequisites, and credits, visit [CTE Programs of Study](#).

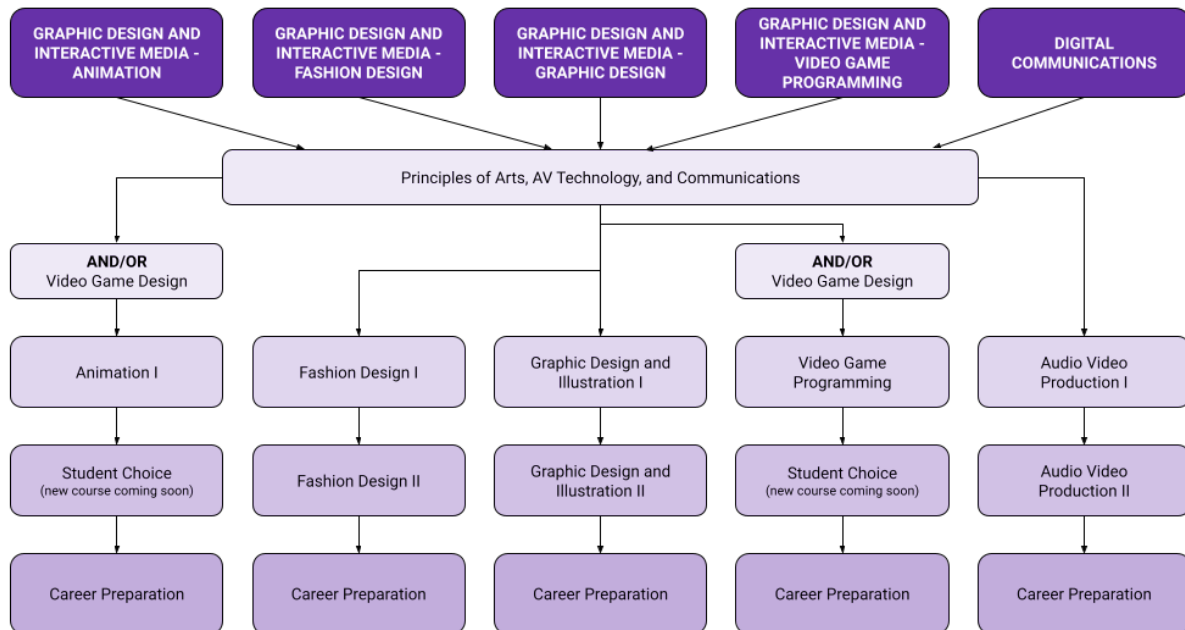
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



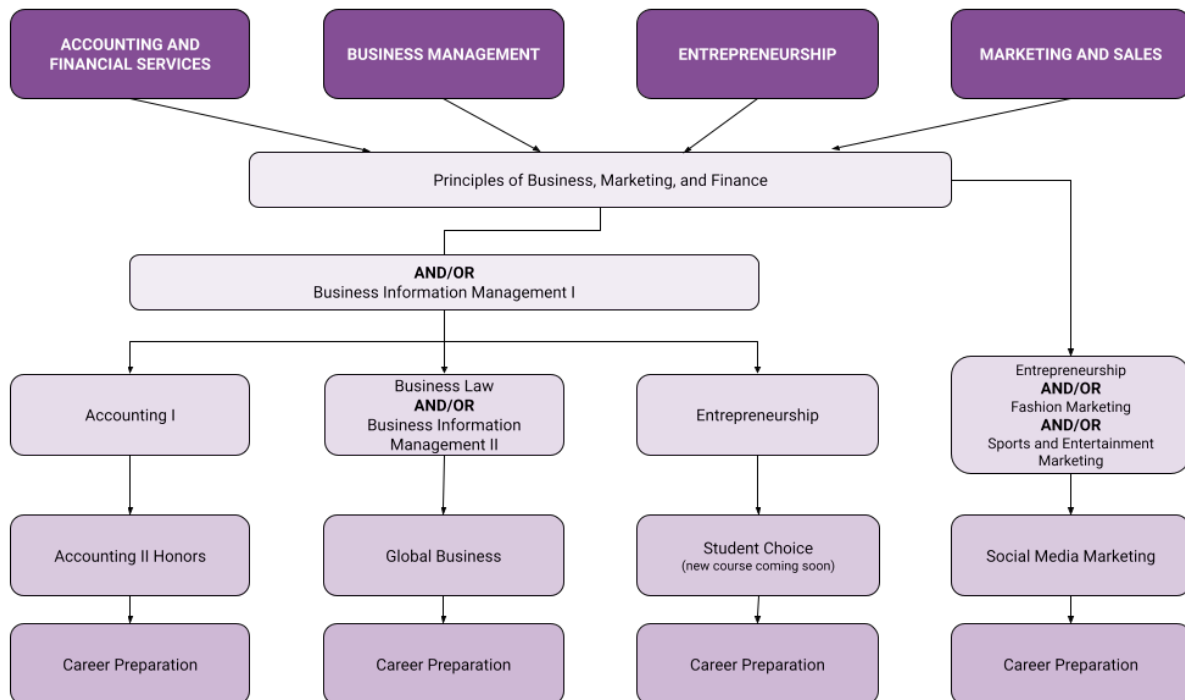
Architecture and Construction



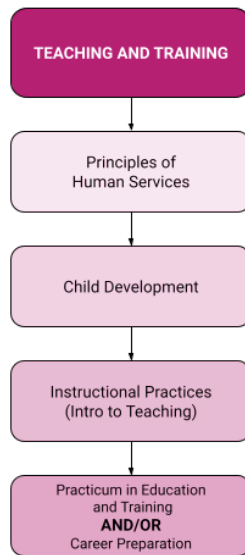
Arts, Audio Video Technology, and Communications



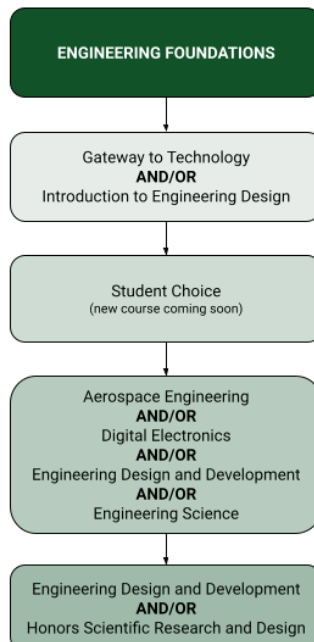
Business, Marketing, and Finance



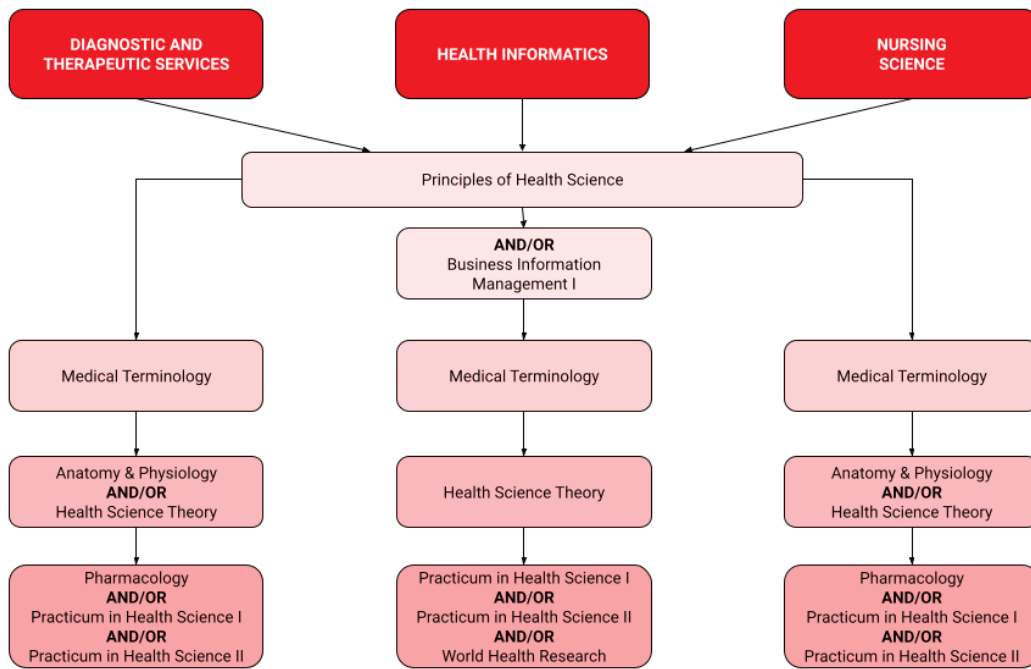
Education and Training



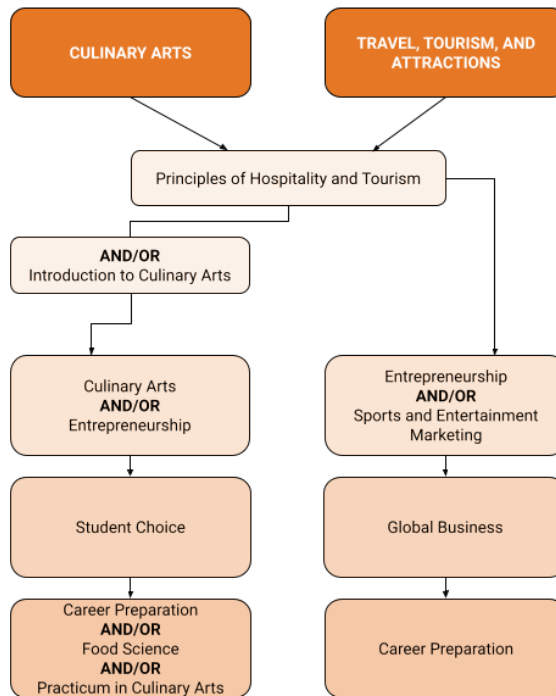
Engineering



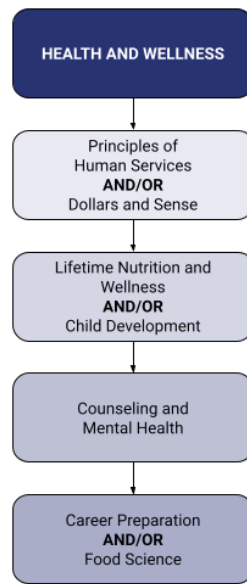
Health Science



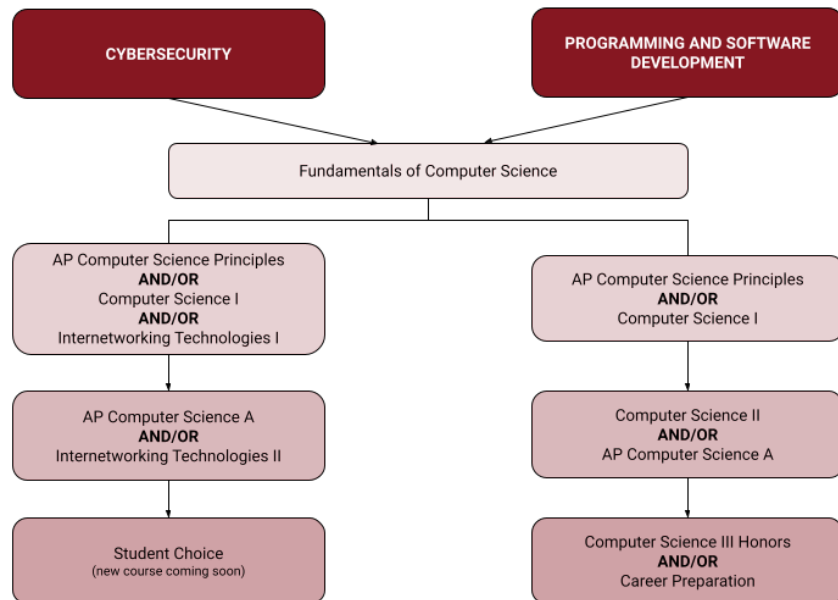
Hospitality and Tourism



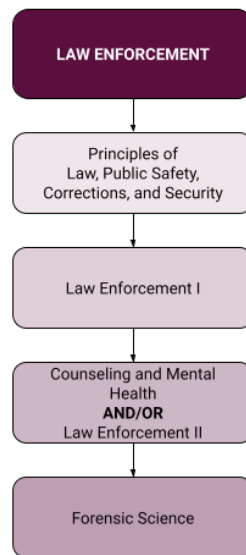
Human Services



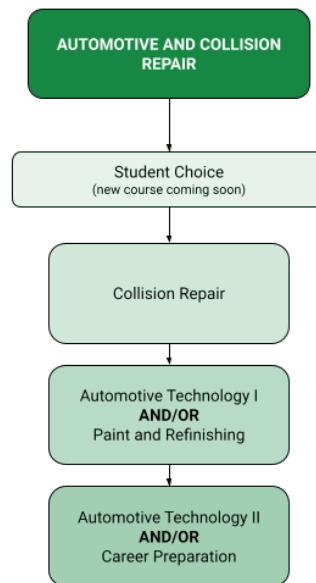
Information Technology



Law and Public Service



Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics



English as a Second Language (ESL)

ESL classes, which focus on intensive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English, are offered to emergent bilingual students at all secondary campuses. Placement into courses is commensurate with a student's English Language proficiency level. The ESL program shall be an integral part of the regular educational program and students who participate in the ESL program are also eligible to participate in all other courses upon meeting each course requirement. State-adopted English as a second language instructional materials and supplementary materials are used as curriculum tools. The courses offered are aligned to state standards.

Gifted and Talented

Gifted and talented services are provided for identified students. High school gifted students

are served through PACE Humanities I and II, honors, International Honors (IH), American Studies, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. In addition, specific subject honors courses and fine arts electives provide challenge and enrichment for these students. Presentation and research projects are important components of all PACE classes. More information can be found on the [Gifted Education](#) website.

Health

In Health I, students develop skills that will help them become health-literate adults. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Students are taught how to access accurate information they can use to promote health for themselves and others in areas such as fitness, nutrition, mental/emotional health, alcohol, and substance abuse. Students also develop an understanding of interpersonal relationships including reproductive health, the process of fertilization, and healthy fetal development. Students use problem-solving, research, goal-setting, and communication skills to protect their own health and that of the community. Successful completion of this course will satisfy the Health requirement for graduation. Students will receive high school credit and high school grade points.

Junior ROTC

The mission statement of The United States Army Junior Reserve Officers' Corps (JROTC) is "To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens". The program is designed to teach high school students character education, student achievement, wellness, leadership, and diversity. The JROTC program provides extracurricular opportunities for local, state and national competition in the following categories: color guard, unarmed drill, armed drill, physical fitness, academic, leadership, and air rifle. Through these teams, the students have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter jacket. There is NO military service requirement for participating in JROTC. Enrollment in four years of JROTC may earn the Public Services Endorsement.

Off-Campus PE

The purpose of the Off-Campus Physical Education Program is to accommodate students who are making a serious effort to develop high-level capabilities and to allow those students to be involved in a program that provides training exceeding that offered in the school district. The student is taking this course for physical education credit and he/she may not be enrolled in athletics while participating in the Off-Campus Physical Education Program. A maximum of 4 credits can be earned toward state high school graduation requirements. A student interested in this program should contact his/her school counselor for the application, guidelines, and enrollment dates concerning off-campus physical education. Per policy EIF (Regulation), Plano ISD will not offer OCPE credit for sports/activities that are offered within Plano ISD UIL competitive athletic programs in grades 9-12. Visit the [Off Campus PE](#) website for information regarding approved sports and participation requirements.

Physical Education

One credit of physical education is required for graduation by the state of Texas; however, a student may earn up to 4 credits of PE toward graduation.

Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits

This one-year course offers approaches for personal fitness foundations, physical literacy, lifetime wellness and a healthy living style. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to demonstrate mastery of the needed concepts for achieving lifetime wellness. Students will participate in a variety of physical activities that will help them attain personal fitness and

lifetime wellness goals.

Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits

This full-year course provides opportunities for students to develop five or more lifelong recreational and outdoor pursuit competencies for challenge and enjoyment. Students will participate in a variety of activities that promote physical literacy and respect for nature and the environment. Students will be provided opportunities to enhance self-worth and explore community engagement opportunities.

Skill-Based Lifetime Activities

This full-year course offers students opportunities to demonstrate mastery of basic sport skills, sports knowledge, and principles of fitness and health. Students will be provided opportunities that promote physical literacy and lifetime wellness. In this course, students will experience a variety of activities that support lifelong participation.

A list of [Physical Education Substitutions](#) is available. For more information, visit the [Athletics](#) website.

Vines Academy

French 1 and Geometry Honors are offered at Vines Academy to middle school students when those courses are not offered on a student's home campus. Classes begin at 7:45 a.m., starting on the first day of the school year. No transportation is provided to Vines though district buses are available to transport students from Vines back to their home middle school campus in time for 2nd period. Contact the counselor's office at your campus for more information.

Specialized Academies

Academy High School

Plano ISD Academy High School is an innovative, project-based ninth through twelfth grade learning community committed to fostering a professional environment, inspiring creativity, and empowering students to collaborate and compete in a rapidly changing world. With an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), student learning is anchored in real-world, multi-disciplinary experiences that rely on continuous collaboration with others both inside and outside the school. For more information visit [Academy High School](#) website.

eSchool

Beginning with the graduating class of 2025, a student may earn a maximum of five (5) credits through online courses approved by the District. No limit shall be imposed on the number of online courses a student may be enrolled in at the same time. Currently, enrolled Plano ISD students must follow the approval process for these courses through their school counselor. With the exception of Health, credits for high school graduation may not be earned until after the eighth grade year. Grade points will not be awarded for eSchool courses. For more information, including registration procedures and eSchool Guidelines, visit the [eSchool](#) website.

Health Sciences Academy

The Plano ISD Health Sciences Academy (HSA) is a four-year program that provides learning opportunities through Collin College to earn workforce dual credit and/or a Plano ISD pathway in biomedical sciences. Through the Collin College partnership, the HSA can offer students the opportunity to earn workforce dual credit in a healthcare track, academic dual credit, and

industry-based certification in a healthcare field. Additionally, students have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree or Associate of Science from Collin College. The biomedical science program includes courses in Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, and Medical Interventions. For more information visit the [Health Sciences Academy](#) website.

Industries Academy

The Plano ISD Industries Academy is a two-year program open to incoming juniors who would like to pursue a path in high-wage, high-demand career areas such as advanced manufacturing, architecture and construction, and science, technology, engineering, and math. Through taking Collin College workforce dual credit courses, students will have the opportunity to earn industry-based certifications, acquire skills to meet workforce needs, and become prepared to join tomorrow's job market. For more information, visit the [Industries Academy](#) website.

International Baccalaureate

IB School

The IB World School at Plano East is a challenging pre-university course of study that encourages students to be knowledgeable and inquiring as well as caring and compassionate. Through the International Baccalaureate program, students are encouraged to develop intercultural understanding, open-mindedness, and attitudes necessary to enable students to respect and evaluate multiple points of view. The locally-established International Honors (IH) program prepares students in grades 9 and 10 for the expectations of the IB Diploma Program in grades 11 and 12. For more information about the program, visit the [IB World School](#) website.

International Honors

The International Honors (IH) program is a locally developed series of courses taken in the ninth and tenth-grade years and is designed to prepare students for the challenges of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Full-Diploma Program. IB is an internationally recognized, comprehensive two-year study taken in the eleventh- and twelfth-grade years. Please refer to the [IB School](#) website for detailed information.

Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy

The Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy is a program that provides students with a pathway to earning an Associate's degree while completing high school. Through a partnership between Collin College and Plano ISD, Collegiate Academy students are able to take 60+ college credit hours through dual credit courses aligned with the Texas college core curriculum. Students who complete the program will satisfy the core requirements at Texas public universities, thus saving them time and money for their undergraduate degree. The Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy program will be located at Vines High School for grades 9-10 and at Plano Senior High School for grades 11-12.

TONI&GUY™ Cosmetology Program

The Plano ISD TONI & GUY™ Cosmetology Program is a two-year program open to incoming juniors located at the TONI&GUY™ Hairdressing Academy. Students selected by lottery will enroll in eleventh grade to begin 1,000 clock hours of theory, technical instruction, and practical operations working toward the goal of earning a Texas Cosmetology License as a graduating senior. For more information, visit the [TONI&GUY™ Academy](#) website.

General Academic Information

Changing Class Schedules

Advisement and course selections for students are completed in the fall of the previous school year. The course selections that are made by students, in conjunction with their families, guide the building needs and staffing for the upcoming school year. Due to this, it is imperative that students use their advisement time with counselors in order to make the best choices for their upcoming academic years.

Schedule changes may be necessary for a number of reasons including changing course levels, accidentally enrolling in a course in which credit has already been earned, or being awarded a position on a school team or program. In these cases, the counselor on campus will work with the administration and students affected to adjust schedules as necessary.

Guidelines regarding changes for level adjustments including changing levels from honors to on level will follow advanced academic guidelines.

In the event of a student or parent requesting a schedule change due to electives or other optional classes, the campus cannot guarantee this change. The campus will take into account class sizes, master schedule limitations, and campus-level procedures and timelines in making adjustments.

Classification of Students

Grade-level advancement for students in grades 9–12 shall be earned by course credits as follows:

1. From grade 9, a student must have acquired 6 credits.
2. From grade 10, a student must have acquired 13 credits, including 2 credits of English (English I and English II) and 1 credit of Algebra I, 1 credit of Geometry, 1 credit of Biology, and 1 credit of social studies (World Geography or World History).
3. From grade 11, a student must have acquired 19 credits

Students who have earned higher credit totals during a corresponding school year are not reclassified past their cohort year unless they have completed a request for early graduation with their school counselor.

Early Graduation

Students who plan to complete all required coursework for graduation should notify the school counselor before the beginning of their senior year. A request of intent to graduate early must be filed with the school counselor prior to September 1st of the third year of high school. Students must be successful on all required assessments, meet CCMR criteria, and receive credit for all required courses in order to be considered for early graduation. Students who graduate early will follow the graduation plan for the year they entered high school but will be ranked with the graduating class. Students who graduate early may be eligible for the Texas First Diploma. Parental consent is required.

Endorsements

Students may earn endorsements as part of their graduation plan. Students will select an

endorsement in ninth grade from five options. To earn an endorsement a student must successfully complete the Plano ISD curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and must earn a fourth credit in mathematics, an additional credit in science, and two additional elective credits. Endorsement options include:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Service
- Arts and Humanities
- Multi-Disciplinary Studies

A student may earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement by successfully completing the Plano ISD curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement (including four credits in science and four credits in mathematics to include Algebra II). For more information on Endorsement requirements, please see the Texas Education Agency [Graduation Toolkit](#) or contact your counselor.

Grading System

The purpose of the grading guidelines is to ensure that grading practices are consistent among grade levels, subjects, and campuses. These guidelines shall ensure that grading reflects student achievement and that a sufficient number of grades are taken to support the average grade assigned.

The principal and the team/department leaders are responsible for making sure that grade-level team members understand the district's grading policies and guidelines as well as ensuring that all teachers carry them out with consistency.

Grades are an indication of the level of academic development in an elementary, intermediate, or secondary school subject, course, or class. Grades serve as artifacts of learning and communicate what students know and are able to do. Grades need to be a true reflection of the student's relative level of mastery of content, knowledge, and skills. While grades are a necessity for certain processes, such as GPA and class rank, grades only represent a student's understanding of a specific topic or skill at a point in time.

Please see Plano ISD's [Grade Point Average \(GPA\) chart](#) for reference.

Cumulative GPA

All students receive a Cumulative GPA. To calculate a Cumulative GPA, include final semester grades from all credit-earning courses. Exceptions are listed in [EIC \(LOCAL\)](#).

Ranking GPA

The Ranking GPA is internally calculated solely for the purpose of determining the top 10% of a graduating class. It will only be calculated and available for those students who are in the top 10% of their graduating class. First-time calculations are made during the fall of a student's eleventh grade year. A full [list](#) of courses included in the Ranking GPA is available.

Course Weight Designations

For more information, see [Course Weight Designations](#).

Course Averaging

According to district policy, [EI \(LOCAL\)](#); Semester credit for full-year courses: if a student earns credit for one semester of a one-credit course by earning a grade of 70 or above but fails to earn a grade of 70 or above for the other semester, the .5 credit earned shall not be deducted.

Awarding credit through averaging: a student may be awarded credit for a full-year course by either earning a grade of 70 or above in both semesters or by earning a grade of 70 or above when both semester grades are averaged together. Averaging of the two semesters may only be applied the first time a student takes each semester of the course.

Local/No State Credit Courses

Some locally developed courses are approved by the Board of Trustees and may be designated for credit or for no credit. No credit courses do not count toward state graduation requirements and cannot be used to fulfill the minimum number of credits on any graduation plan. No credit courses are not included in the calculation of the Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). Review Policy [EIC \(LOCAL\)](#) for a list of classes not included in the Cumulative GPA.

UIL Eligibility

A student who receives, at the end of any six-week or nine-week grading period, a grade below 70 in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.

All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more. When the bell rings to dismiss students for the December holidays, all students are eligible until classes resume in January. The same is true for the summer recess and spring break provided those breaks consist of at least a full calendar week.

The 80th Texas Legislative Session passed SB 1517 in May 2007. The passage of SB 1517 amended Section 33.081 of the Education Code, restricted the courses, and deemed those courses now waivable. Senate Bill 1517 defines that the exemption only “applies to an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course, or to an honors or dual credit course in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English.” Please see the newly defined list of [Waivable Courses](#).

Promotion and Retention

Retention Policy

Texas House Bill (HB) 3803 gives parents the right to have a student repeat any high school course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year. Texas HB 3803 is an amendment to Texas Education Code Section 28.02124. Parents interested in a request of this nature should contact their child's principal.

Promotion Guidelines

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
A student must have acquired six credits.	A student must have acquired 13 credits including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English I and English II ● Algebra I and Geometry ● Biology ● World Geography or World History 	A student must have acquired 19 credits.

Special Education Services

Special Education services are provided for each student who meets eligibility requirements. Consideration of a student's eligibility for Special Education services is initiated by a referral to the Student Support Team, which may be requested by a parent/guardian, school personnel or outside agencies. Parent/guardian consent is required prior to assessment, and again, prior to placement in Special Education.

Components of the Special Education process include:

- determining whether a student meets Special Education eligibility through formal assessment, data collection and determination of educational need;
- preparing an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each student based on needs, if eligibility is determined;
- implementing the IEP in the least restrictive environment; and
- annually evaluating the student's progress and developing the IEP to address the student's individualized needs.

Special Education services are provided under state and federal guidelines. Special Education offers specially designed instruction and a full continuum of services to meet student needs. Services range from fully self-contained learning environments to support in general education classrooms. A student's graduation plan, developed by the ARD/IEP committee, determines the services and supports that allow the student to meet state and district credit requirements for graduation.

STAAR EOC Assessments

Successful completion of STAAR End of Course (EOC) assessments is required to earn a state diploma. Students who do not perform satisfactorily on EOCs have the opportunity to retake the exam three times a year in accordance with the state testing calendar. To successfully complete an EOC assessment, the student must score at the approaches, meets or masters level.

The State acknowledges performance levels as the following:

- Masters Grade Level
- Meets Grade Level
- Approaches Grade Level
- Did Not Meet Grade Level

Required Examinations for Graduation:

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
English I EOC English II EOC	Algebra I EOC	Biology EOC	US History EOC

Students Failing to Meet “Approaches Grade Level” Standard on EOC

On every EOC and all necessary STAAR tests, attaining a score at the "Approaches Grade Level" standard or higher is regarded as a success. To satisfy the requirements of Texas House Bill 1416, students must complete 15-30 hours of academic acceleration if their STAAR score is below the Approaches standard. An Accelerated Education Plan will be developed for a student who fails to achieve the approaches standard or higher on two consecutive EOC assessments in the same subject area.

Transition from Middle School to High School

Incoming ninth grade students who do not achieve Approaches Grade Level on a STAAR assessment are required to complete 15-30 hours of accelerated instruction in the subject area failed. Accelerated instruction is designed to assist the student in achieving satisfactory performance at the approaches standard or higher on subsequent STAAR/EOC assessments, and will be administered according to the guidance provided in Texas House Bill 1416.

Summer School and Correspondence Courses

Credits for high school graduation may not be earned until after the eighth-grade year through Correspondence (courses are accepted from Texas Tech University and University of Texas at Austin) or Summer School courses. Grade points will not be awarded for Correspondence or Summer School Courses. Students taking correspondence courses and/or summer school will take the STAAR EOC assessments required for graduation.

College Information

High school is an exciting time for students as they begin planning for their transition to college or other postsecondary institutions. Remember that SchoolLinks is a tool provided by Plano ISD to help students prepare for and navigate the transition to college. SchoolLinks provides resources and tips for researching and applying to colleges. Students can create their college favorites list, look for scholarships, and stay on top of required action steps. All students can access SchoolLinks through an app linked to their Webdesk.

Requesting Transcripts

Students will use SchoolLinks to request transcripts. Students can also use SchoolLinks to request recommendation letters and track other important steps of the college admissions process. See the SchoolLinks [Quick Start Guide](#) for information about using SchoolLinks.

Automatic Admission in Texas

Students in the top 10% of their class (top 6% in class for The University of Texas at Austin) are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in the state of Texas per TEC 51.803.

To be eligible for automatic admission, students must meet the following criteria:

- Qualify in the top 10% of the graduating class per Plano ISD [EIC \(LOCAL\)](#) policy (top 6% for The University of Texas at Austin)
- Earn the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program

- Submit an application before the deadline established by the Texas college or university to which the student seeks admission

Texas First Early High School Completion Program

Fast track your path to universities in Texas by graduating early through the Texas First Diploma. You can graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship!

Students who graduate two or more semesters early receive a two-semester scholarship to a participating university. Students who graduate one semester early receive a one-semester scholarship. To be eligible, students must meet the following requirements:

- Texas resident
- FAFSA completion
- Earned at least 22 high school credits
- Earned a GPA of at least 3.0 or higher
- Additional academic requirements found on TEA's [website](#).

The [Texas First Diploma Flyer](#) also provides a high-level overview of the program.

Financial Aid

Seniors should apply for financial aid by completing either the FAFSA or TASFA application. Even if students do not believe they will qualify for financial aid, it is still important to apply in order to be eligible for academic scholarships. Great resources to help students and families prepare for completing the financial aid process are available through Texas OnCourse, College for All Texans, and Federal Student Aid websites.

- [Federal Student Aid](#) - an Office of the U.S. Department of Education
- [Texas OnCourse](#)
- [College for All Texans](#) - a great resource for TASFA

College Assessments

Although many colleges have a test option policy following the pandemic, it is still highly recommended that students practice for and take one of the recognized college assessments including SAT, ACT, and the TSI Assessment. Plano ISD provides the Pre-SAT (PSAT) to all ninth and tenth-grade students so that they can get a jump start on preparing for the official SAT which is provided to all eleventh-grade students each March. Students are encouraged to practice using the Official SAT Practice by [Khan Academy](#).

To learn more about each college assessment, free practice resources, and the target scores to be considered college ready, please visit the [College & Career Ready](#) website.

Required Course Fee

Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Music)

Course	Use of Fee	Amount
Band	Instrument Maintenance Fee	\$85 - \$100*
Art I	Art I Kit Fee	\$5 - \$25**

AP Art Studio	AP Studio Art Fee	\$55
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* Fee applies only to students utilizing a school owned instrument.

** Fee may vary based on anticipated projects per campus and instructor.

CTE

Course	Use of Fee	Amount
Practicum in Health Science I	Scrubs, drug screen, background check, liability insurance, required immunizations for clinical sites	\$250 - \$300
Practicum in Health Science II	Drug screen, background check, liability insurance, required immunizations for clinical sites	\$150 - \$200
Practicum in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Veterinary scrubs and patch Floral apron	\$100 \$30
Instructional Practices Practicum in Education and Training	Annual background check fee Fingerprinting (only if required in background check)	\$2 \$40