

ACADEMIC GUIDE

Plano ISD 2024-2025



Middle School
Grades 6th-8th

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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.



PLANO ISD VISION



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	11th or 12th Grade: SAT Take the SAT and earn the following scores: Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing = 480 or higher Math = 530 or higher 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 <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	Take the ACT and earn the following scores: (<i>starting Feb 15, 2023</i>) English + Reading Sections = combined score of 40 or higher Math Section = 22 or higher
TSI-Assessment	Take the TSI-A2 and earn the following scores: Reading/Writing = 945 or higher Essay = 5 or higher Math = 950 or higher
College Prep Classes	Take a College Prep English or Math class if you do not do well on college assessment tests. These are self-paced, personalized on-line courses. Math = earn 90% mastery on part 1 and part 2 English = earn 90% mastery on part 1 and part 2 and English = meet criteria on an essay

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</p>

	Self-Help Skills as per IEP
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

[SchoolLinks](#) is a robust and fun-to-use tool to help students and parents navigate college and career readiness starting in 6th 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

- Leadership in Action(Armstrong and Bowman Middle Schools)
 - Prerequisites: Participation in Dual Language Program and/or Emergent Bilingual who is Fluent in Spanish

Course Revisions

- Art II
 - Expands to a full year course
 - Expands to a 7th and 8th graders
 - Replacing the current semester course Art II
- Theatre Arts II
 - Expands to a full year course
 - Expands to a 7th and 8th graders

- Replacing the current semester course Theatre Arts II
- Fundamentals of Computer Science
 - Semester course earning 1.0 high school credit
 - Expands to 7th grade in addition to 8th grade
- Gateway to Technology
 - Semester course earning 1.0 high school credit
 - Expands to 7th grade in addition to 8th grade
- Principles of Arts, Audio Video Technology, and Communications
 - Semester course earning 1.0 high school credit
 - Offered in 7th & 8th grade
 - Replacing Investigating Audio Visual, Arts, and Communications
- Principles of Human Services
 - Semester course earning 1.0 high school credit
 - Offered in 7th & 8th grade
 - Replacing Life & College Readiness

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.

- Investigating Audio Visual, Arts, and Communications (replaced by Principles of Arts, Audio Video Technology, and Communications) - will sunset 2024-2025
- Life & College Readiness (replaced by Principles of Human Services) - will sunset 2024-2025

Special Note: Honors courses are intended to prepare students for advanced coursework provided in college-level classes such as Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit. Honors courses begin in 6th grade and exist where there are no college course options and taper off when AP and Dual Credit courses are offered. Honors courses exist when an AP or Dual Credit course does not exist. Plano ISD is phasing out Honors courses when there is the college credit option, just as our surrounding school districts have done.

If a student is trying to decide if AP or Dual Credit is the best option, students should visit with their respective school counselor to discuss the best option for them.

Academic Plan

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 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 **Guide** assists students, parents, administrators, counselors, and teachers. Beyond the course titles and descriptions given in the Course Catalog, the **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 and six-year middle and high school planning. The course offerings can be obtained in an online [course 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

The middle school course selection process will take place after ongoing advisement and discussion with students, families, and counselors. Students will make selections and create academic plans in SchoolLinks in order to see how their course selections and choices may impact classes they take in future years. These plans are adjustable and only a preliminary road map for course selection. As student interests and academic focuses change, we want to be flexible in allowing students to explore new avenues. Course selection processes and timelines will be communicated by the campus annually.

Curriculum Requirements

All students in sixth through eighth grade will participate in a core curriculum consisting of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. These courses may be offered both on-level and honors courses. Information regarding these can be found in the [course catalog](#).

6th Grade Requirements (8 Units Total)

Content Area	Required Units	Notes
English Language Arts and Reading	2	One unit is the value given to a class when it meets for one period per day for the entire school year. This block includes Reading required in sixth grade.

		For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Reading in fifth grade, intervention is required.
Mathematics	1	For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Mathematics in fifth grade, intervention is required.
Social Studies	1	
Science	1	
Physical Education	1	The offering and length of these courses is determined by the individual campus. Four semesters of Physical Education must be completed in grades 6 through 8.
Fine Arts	1	The course is selected from Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, or Theater.
Intervention and Enrichment	1	

7th Grade Requirements (8 Units Total)

Content Area	Required Units	Notes
English Language Arts and Reading	1	For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Reading in sixth grade, enrollment in Reading 7 is recommended.
Mathematics	1	For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Mathematics in sixth grade, enrollment in a supplemental math class is recommended.
Texas History	1	
Science	1	
Physical Education	0-1	Four semesters of Physical Education must be completed in grades 6 through 8.
Elective	2-3	Electives may include Career and Technical Education (CTE), Fine Arts, Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Athletics, and more. Discuss options with your counselor.

8th Grade Requirements (8 Units Total)

Content Area	Required Units	Notes
English Language Arts and Reading	1	For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Reading in seventh grade, enrollment in Reading 8 is recommended.
Mathematics	1	For students who do not score at the Approaches level or above on STAAR Mathematics in seventh grade, enrollment in a supplemental math class is recommended.
United States History	1	
Science	1	
Physical Education	0-1	Four semesters of Physical Education must be completed in grades 6 through 8.
Elective	2-3	Electives may include Career and Technical Education (CTE), Fine Arts, Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Athletics, and more. Discuss options with your counselor.

Instructional & Academic Overview

Courses

Advanced Academics

Acceleration

At the middle school level, students may request to take examinations for acceleration in academic subjects. Please see the [Credit by Exam](#) website and speak with your student's counselor for more information.

Honors

A differentiated honors curriculum includes a wider range and greater depth of subject matter than that of the regular course. Emphasis will be placed on higher level and critical thinking skills, on creative, productive thinking, and on independent guided research. In the middle school program, these courses are offered in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The middle school honors math pathway is an accelerated pathway and requires prerequisites to enter honors math after the start of sixth grade. Although there are no prerequisites for middle school honors English, it is recommended that students demonstrate readiness through a passing score on Reading STAAR in grades 5 and above. Please contact the school counselor for additional information.

Core Courses

All students in grades 6 through 8 receive instruction in English Language Arts and Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Depending on a student's grade level and the course, they have the option of choosing advanced or high-school credit courses.

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.

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

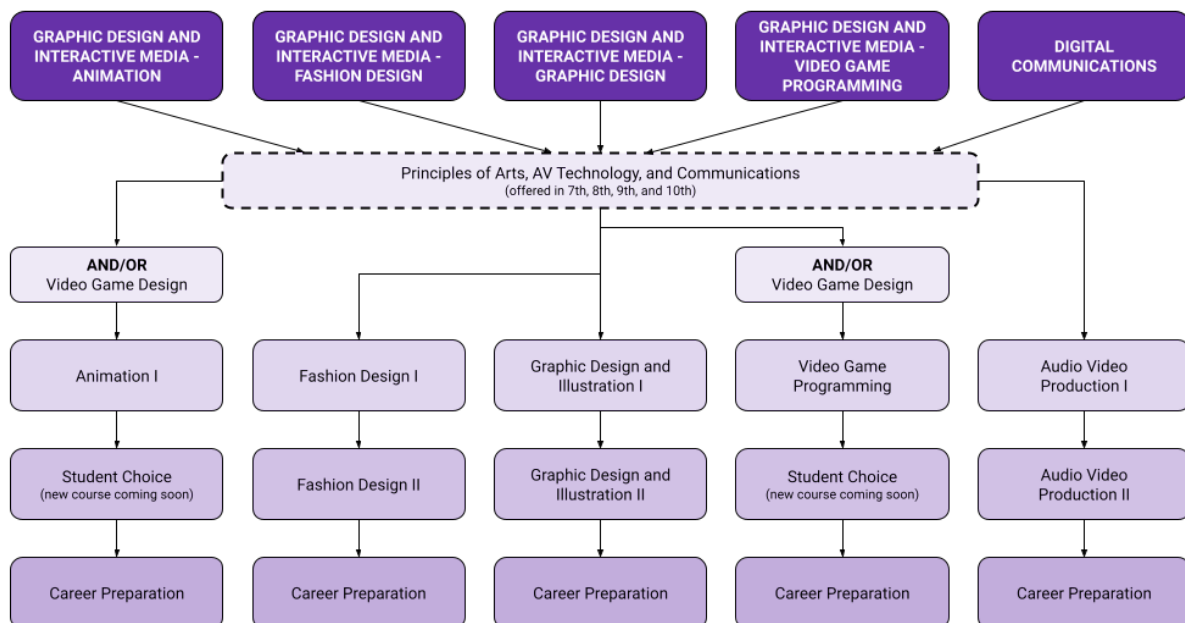
CTE Course	Grade Level	Type of credit
Exploring Information and Computer Technology	7-8	

Skills and Career Readiness	7-8	
Fundamentals of Computer Science	7-8	High school credit
Gateway to Technology	7-8	High school credit
Principles of Arts, AV Technology, and Communications	7-10	High school credit
Principles of Human Services	7-10	High school credit

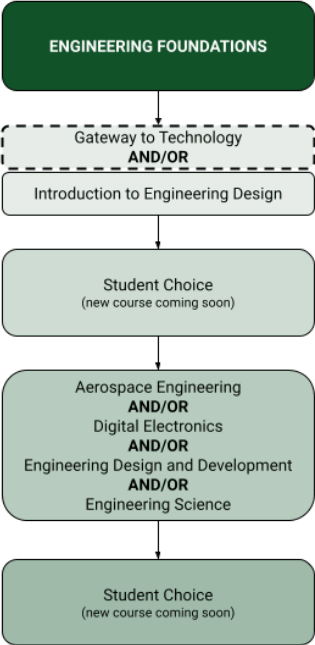
Programs of study beginning in 7th grade:

Middle school courses are indicated by a dashed border.

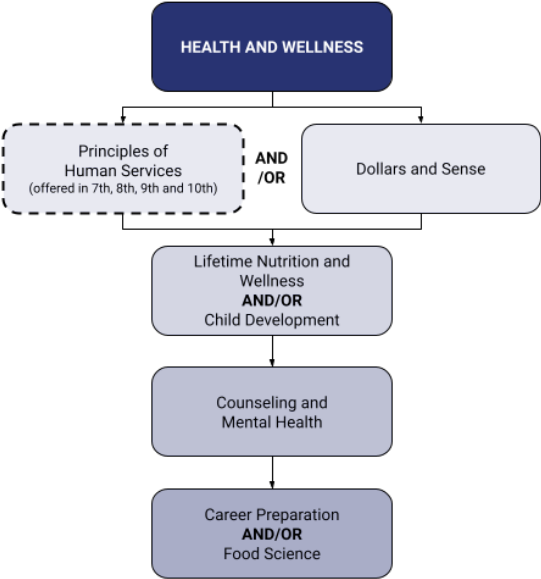
Arts, Audio Video Technology, and Communications



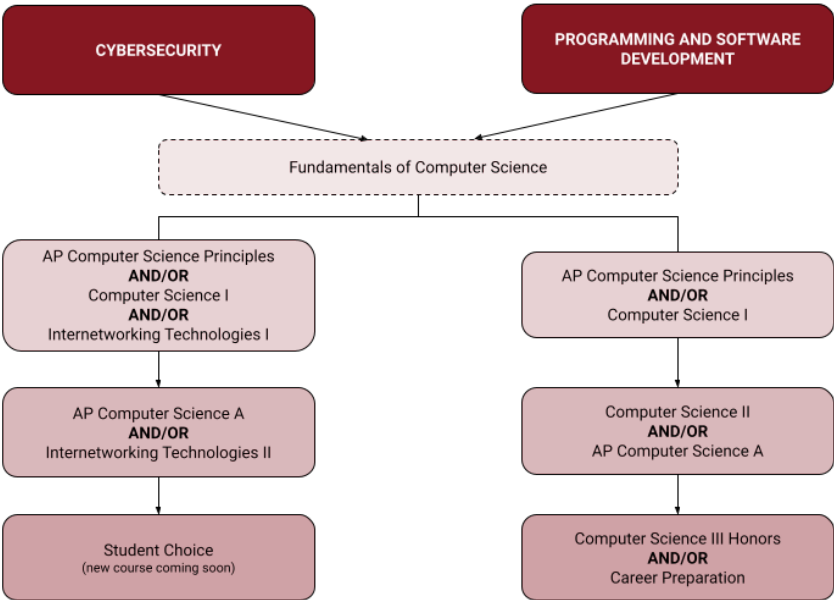
Engineering



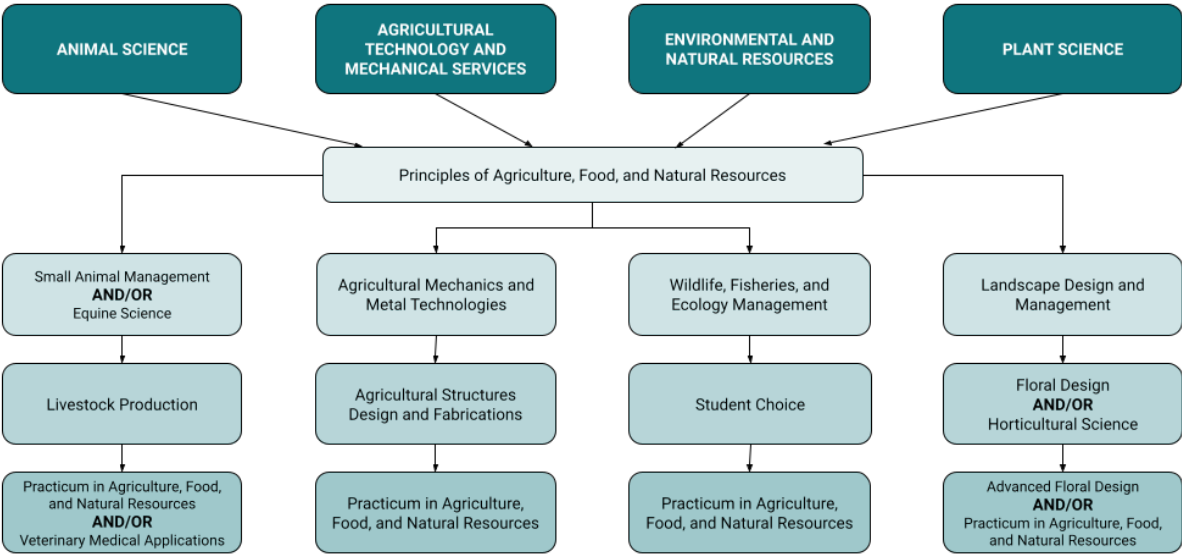
Human Services



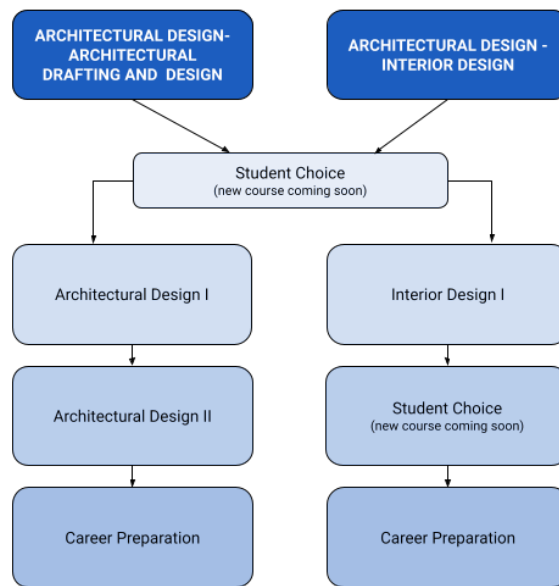
Information Technology



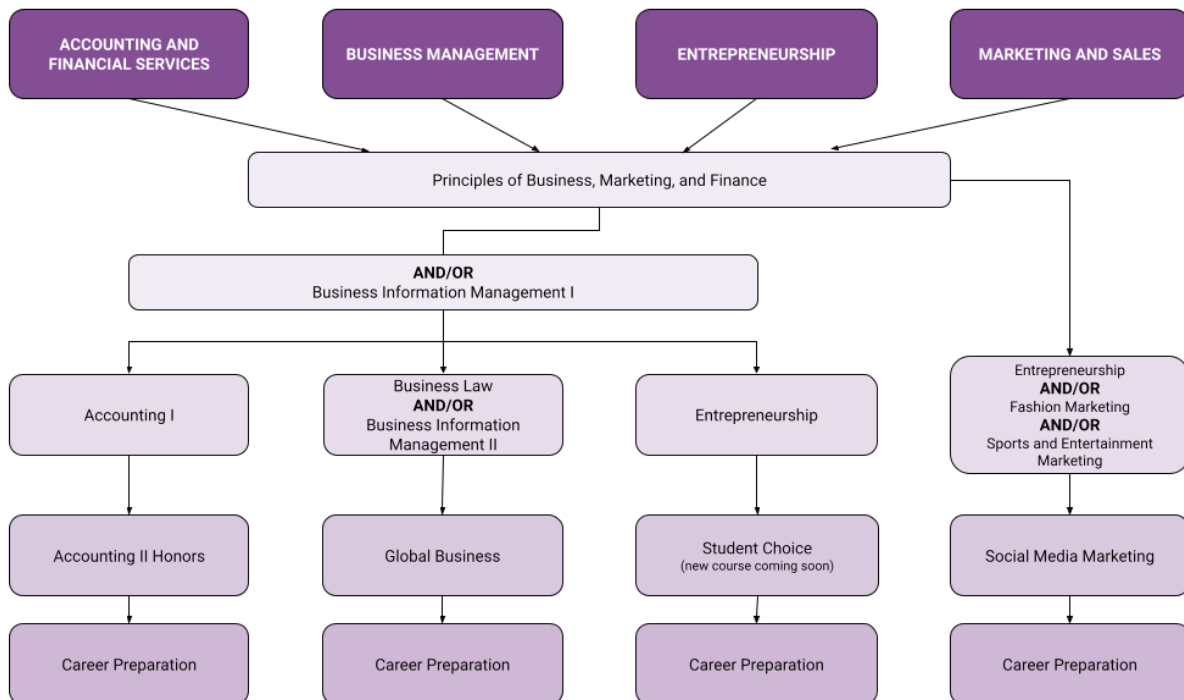
Programs of study beginning in 9th grade:
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



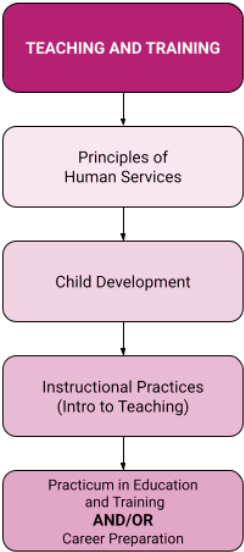
Architecture and Construction



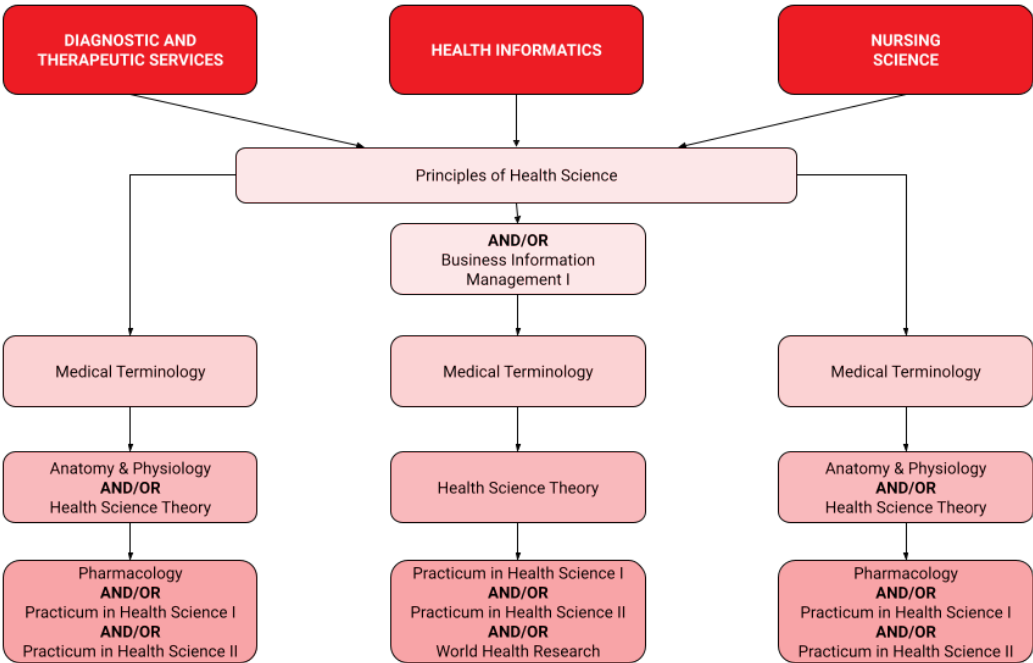
Business, Marketing, and Finance



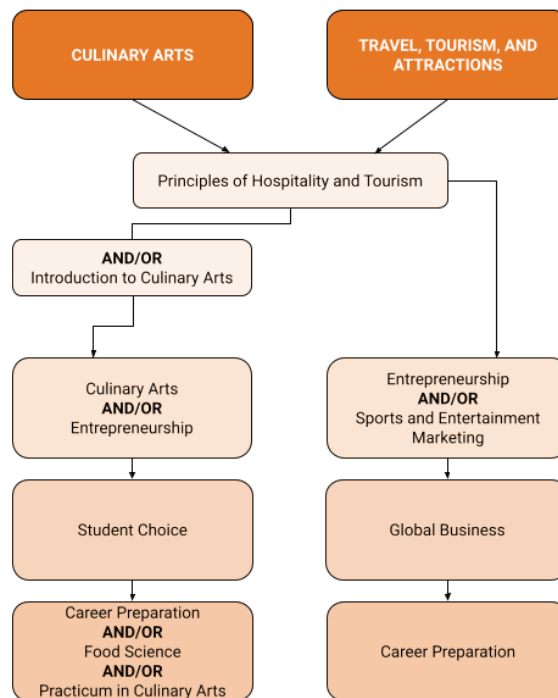
Education and Training



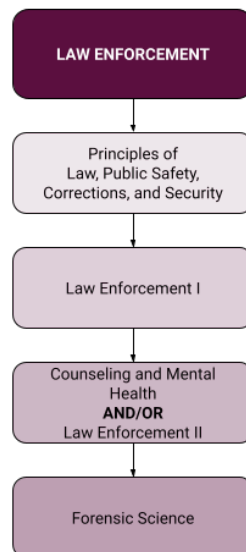
Health Science



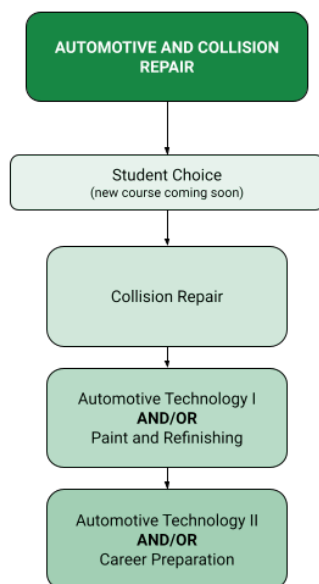
Hospitality and Tourism



Law and Public Service



Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics



Electives

In addition to the required courses, students may choose other courses to complete their schedules. The number of elective courses that students may choose varies from year to year. Students in seventh and eighth grades have access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Fine Arts

Students in middle school have the opportunity to enroll in Art (Visual), Band, Choir, Debate, Oral Interpretation, Orchestra, Speech, Theater Arts, and Technical Theatre courses to satisfy the one (1) credit of the fine arts requirement to meet the SBOE (State Board of Education) curriculum requirements in grades 6-8. 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.

Coordinated School Health

Middle school students receive instruction in Plano ISD's Coordinated School Health Program, which is incorporated into the physical education classes. This program is a systematic approach to advancing student academic performance by promoting, practicing, and coordinating school health education and services for the benefit and well-being of students. This program helps to establish healthy behaviors in students designed to last a lifetime. The curriculum includes lessons in physical fitness, health and wellness, decision-making, self-esteem/body image, nutrition, mental health/stress, body systems, growth and development, diseases and disorders, drugs and alcohol, and personal safety.

Health

Eighth-grade students develop skills that will help them become health-literate adults in a one-semester course. 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, and alcohol/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.

Languages Other Than English

Students in seventh and eighth grade have the opportunity to enroll in either Spanish or French to satisfy one of the two credits of the language requirement to meet the SBOE (State Board of Education) curriculum requirements of the Foundation High School Program. The PISD Languages 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.

Pathways in Middle School LOTE Program

- Spanish native/heritage speakers in the sixth and seventh grade are identified and invited to take the Middle School AP Spanish Placement Exam at the end of the first semester. The placement exam is a diagnostic for a student's reading and writing ability to be successful in the Spanish 3H course. Spanish 3H is a prerequisite for Spanish 4AP. When students earn a passing grade at the end of the fall semester in Spanish 3H, they are awarded credit for Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 and Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2.
- Students who participated in the two-year program during the 23-24 school year will be able to continue in the two-year program in the 24-25 school year.
- Starting in the 24-25 school year, seventh and eighth graders will have the opportunity to complete a level 1 LOTE credit in either French or Spanish in one year. The students who choose to take a LOTE class in either seventh or eighth grade must take level 2 in the consecutive year.
- Beginning in the 25-26 school year, students in seventh and/or eighth grade will earn one high school credit for each LOTE course that is completed in middle school.

Programs

Athletics

Students may schedule Athletics instead of Physical Education. In the sixth grade, students may take a regular Physical Education class or a Pre-Athletics class, as there is no competitive athletic program. In the seventh and eighth grades, volleyball, football, basketball, track, soccer, and cross country contests will be scheduled with schools inside the district.

Students participating in Athletics must maintain a 70 in all subjects and must pass the physical examination required by University Interscholastic League (UIL). Students interested in Athletics should contact the head coach at the individual school campus to obtain the necessary forms.

AVID®

The AVID® (Advancement Via Individual Determination) course is designed to prepare students for success in postsecondary education. AVID® 7 and AVID® 8 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. Students must be accepted into the AVID® program.

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 with state standards.

Gifted and Talented

Gifted services are provided for students formally identified for those services. Middle school PACE (Plano's Academic and Creative Education) students are served through their PACE history classes. Collaboration, independent work, presentations, and research projects are important components of all PACE classes. More information can be found on the [Gifted Education](#) website.

Admission to and Exit from Gifted and Talented Program:

- Procedure for Identification - All students new to PISD must follow the referral and assessment process to determine the need for gifted services. PACE students who transfer within the district automatically continue program placement.
 - ◆ The [referral form](#) is completed prior to the designated deadline. A student, parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, or other professionals may make referrals.
 - ◆ Screening data is collected. Data may include the following:
 - Ability test scores
 - Achievement test scores
 - Teacher recommendation
 - Writing sample
 - Additional parent information
 - Grades
 - Student portfolio
 - Interview
 - ◆ Placement committee meets.
 - ◆ Parent(s) of placed students gives written permission for program participation.
- Procedure for Exit
 - ◆ Student progress is reviewed and documented.
 - ◆ Conference(s) with student, parent(s), and staff are held.
 - ◆ The PACE Exit Form is completed and signed.
 - ◆ The campus placement committee meets.

Math Rocks

The Math Rocks program seeks to identify students with high achievement and high aptitude in mathematics and serves those students in grades 4 through 8 through a course unique to Plano ISD. Plano ISD identifies these students based on district-administered MAP and CogAT® assessments that are given to all students. Students who qualify are invited to participate through an invitation extended through the Academic Services department. The program is offered on select campuses. No referral process is needed since all students in grades 3-5 are screened for Math Rocks each spring. Qualifying students who elect to participate will be enrolled in a Math Rocks class that takes the place of the student's math class and extends learning using rich tasks based on classic mathematical topics that require thinking far beyond their grade level. Students in Math Rocks experience a unique progression of learning that encompasses all of the middle school math standards by the end of sixth grade, progresses to Honors Algebra 1 in seventh grade, and caps with Honors Geometry in eighth grade. The last opportunity for students to qualify for the program is going into sixth grade. Invitations to participate in the program in middle school are delivered in the spring semester of fifth grade.

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

Students are required to complete 4 semesters of Physical Education during grades 6 through 8. The Physical Education Program is designed to provide appropriate instruction in health, wellness, fitness, and skill development to enhance the physical, mental, and social/emotional development of every student. Every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of fun and challenging activities each semester engaging in an active lifestyle.

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 at Vines Academy begin at 7:45 a.m., starting on the first day of the school year. No transportation is provided to Vines; however, district buses are used 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 which rely on continuous collaboration with others both inside and outside the school. For more information visit the [Academy High School](#) website.

eSchool

Plano ISD eSchool provides excellence in online learning to high school students in Plano and throughout the world. Since 2001, we have served over 50,000 students with a completion rate of 89% and an overall success rate of 96%. The course offerings afford students the flexibility and connectivity to meet their individual needs. eSchool students have access to a rigorous curriculum that is correlated to local, state, and national standards. The online program allows students to enhance their high school experience, work around scheduling difficulties, and/or recapture credits for graduation. Dedicated teachers are specifically trained to work with students in an online setting and are committed to providing a personalized and enriching learning experience for each student. The goal is for students to master course content while acquiring the necessary skills needed to compete in a global society. eSchool makes provisions for eighth graders to enroll in the Health course. Students who have finished seventh grade may take Health in the summer before eighth grade. For all other courses, students who successfully pass eighth grade are eligible to take specific eSchool courses in the summer before ninth grade. 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 an 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.

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, visit the [IB World School](#) 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, 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.

Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy

The Plano Wildcat Collegiate Academy is a program that provides students with a pathway to earn 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 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.

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.

Middle School Courses for High School Credit

Students enrolled in a middle school course for high school credit will stay enrolled for the completion of the course. Courses can be found on [Courses Offered](#). Please see [EI \(Exhibit\)](#) for guidance on when a student is failing or experiencing only marginal success. A parent letter describing the specific requirements for each course shall be distributed at the beginning of each course.

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.

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 elect grade-level retention for students in grades PreK-8 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.

Formal Request to Repeat a Grade or Course

A parent/guardian interested in a request of this nature should contact their child's principal.

Promotion Policy

Requirements - Grades 6 through 8

In grades 6 through 8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in language arts, mathematics, and either science or social studies.

Requirements - Special Education

A student receiving Special Education services shall graduate according to the criteria stated in his/her Individual Education Program and by the decision of the ARD/IEP committee. The

ARD/IEP committee cannot award credit nor a passing grade to a student.

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 and EOC

According to state law, all students enrolled in applicable courses will take required STAAR examinations and/or End of Course (EOC) Assessments. Middle school students enrolled in high school EOC-assessed courses are required to take the EOC assessment for the course(s) in which they are enrolled. To meet Federal ESSA testing requirements, eighth-grade students in Geometry who have already passed the Algebra I EOC will take the eighth-grade Math STAAR test. Achieving "Approaches Grade Level" or higher on all High School EOC examinations is a graduation requirement in the state of Texas. Students who do not achieve "Approaches Grade Level" on EOCs will be given the opportunity to retest according to the state testing calendar.

The state acknowledges performance levels as the following:

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

Students Who Fail to Meet "Approaches Grade Level" on the STAAR/EOC

On each STAAR and EOC exam, the "Approaches Grade Level" standard is considered passing. As required by Texas House Bill 1416, students who do not achieve the approaches grade level or higher on a STAAR/EOC assessment must complete 15-30 hours of accelerated instruction provided during the school day or before or after school by a highly qualified teacher.

