

Navigating HB5

What Is HB5 and How Does It Affect My Student?

“HB5,” also known as the Foundation High School Program, adopted in May 2013, is a system of educational paths in which students choose an endorsement, composed of pathways of similarly themed courses they wish to pursue in their high school career, which should preferably align with the student’s college or career goals. **Talk to your school counselor for more information about your specific district offerings.**

What Is An Endorsement?

An endorsement is a set of classes that create an area of study for your student. Endorsements, and courses to complete an endorsement, will vary by school district. **Ask which endorsements are available in your district.**

5 Endorsements with Examples of Typical Pathways



For a complete explanation of each endorsement: <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/FHSEB/FHSEB.asp>

5 Questions You Can Ask Your Student’s Principal and Counselor In Order To Effectively Advocate On Behalf Of Your Student

- What endorsement options are available from this school for my child? What is the full range available in this district? Are there transportation options for students to take classes at other campuses?
- How will my student benefit from taking Algebra II, Statistics or Algebraic Reasoning? Which one will best fit their college/career goals? **(Students under the distinguished graduation plan must take Algebra II.)**
- Which math and science courses are colleges/universities still requiring for admittance?
- What are ‘performance acknowledgements’ and how can they benefit my student?
- How does the distinguished plan benefit my student and help with the Top Ten Percent automatic admission?

What Are The Major Challenges?

While school counselors and administrators are doing their best to implement the changes, most schools have too few counselors to adequately guide each student and many are still learning how to navigate the complex details of the new graduation plans. Legislators, district officials, and higher education institutions continue to work through fine tuning the alignment between high school courses and college requirements. However, there may be cases where some courses do not align with college requirements. **Colleges and universities still have their own requirements for acceptance. You must verify that any CTE (career-technical) course or endorsement course replacing a previous '4x4' plan course will be accepted. This applies especially to math and science courses.**

What Do I Need To Do?

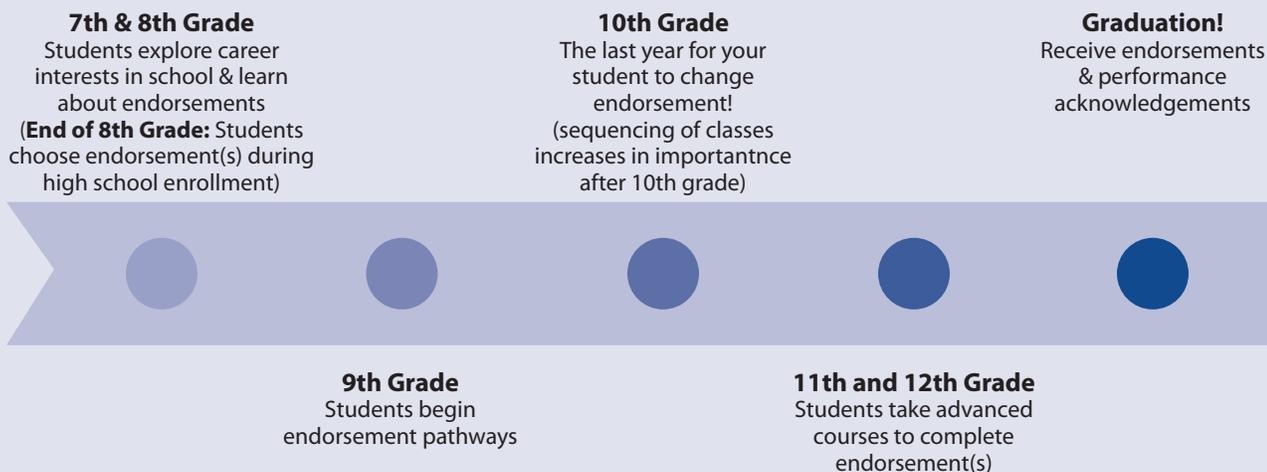
Parental involvement is critical! Remain informed and knowledgeable of the courses your student is taking, as well as the changes to their high school graduation plan. Your student needs your support and guidance as they explore their potential career pathways. Websites and resources are a great foundation, but most students need an involved parent to encourage them to engage in the materials.

Navigating The Process: Key Resources

While legislation dictates the basic structure of the HB5 model, responsibility for its implementation is with the individual school districts. Each district is responsible for implementing the endorsement program, with counseling staff playing a fundamental role in educating students and parents on the endorsement and pathway choices, as well as providing individualized guidance on graduation plans. Some districts have specialized Career and Technical Education specialists and Career Advisors, as well as integrated learning platforms where students and parents are able to access a range of learning resources. However, two comprehensive portals for parents are the newly launched:

- **OnCourse for Educators, Students, & Parents:** <http://texasoncourse.org/students-parents>
- **AIR Student-Oriented Career and Program of Study Exploration:** <http://www.LaunchMyCareerTX.org>

Basic Endorsement Milestone Timeline



High School Foundation Graduation Plan

Foundation High School Graduation Program		Distinguished Level
Subject	Credits Needed	Credits Needed
English English I English II English III Advanced English Course	4	
Mathematics Algebra I Geometry Advanced Math Course	3	4 All Foundation Program requirements plus Algebra II
Science Biology IPC or advanced science course Advanced Science Course	3	4 All Foundation Program requirements plus an advanced science class based on endorsement selection.
Social Studies U. S. History U. S. Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit) World History or Geography	3	
Physical Education	1	
Languages other than English Two credits in the same language Two credits from Computer Science I, II, and III.	2	
Fine Arts	1	
Electives Classes selected for electives will be based upon the endorsement options selected by the student.	5	7
Speech Demonstrated Proficiency	0	0
Total Credits	22	26

Performance Acknowledgements

Students can earn one or more Performance Acknowledgement, in addition to any graduation program they follow, for any of the areas listed below. (Please talk to your school Counselor for specific guidelines for each category).

- Dual Credit course
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam performance.
- Bilingualism and biliteracy
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.
- PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT, or ACT score.

Where Do I Go for More Information and Tools to Support My Student's Career Exploration?

Your local school and school district should have information regarding specific endorsements on their websites. The following is a list of website resources of potential interest to parents.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Education Resources:

- Graduation Toolkit: <http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>
- Graduation Requirements: <http://tea.texas.gov/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx>
- Endorsement FAQs: [http://3_HB5 Endorsement FAQ 031914.pdf](http://3_HB5%20Endorsement%20FAQ%20031914.pdf)

Texas Workforce Commission and Bureau of Labor Education and Career Resources:

- Overview of 5 Endorsements : <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/shared/FHSEB/FHSEB.asp>
- Additional Career Exploration: <http://www.texascareercheck.com>
- Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Other Resources:

- Salary and Budget Exploration by Job Type: <http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/>
- Comparison of Texas Public 2 & 4-year postsecondary institutions by graduate earning data: <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/txcrews/>
- U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Portal: <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- Programs of Study: <http://www.texascareercheck.com/ExploreEducation/ProgramsOfStudy>
- Matched Career Field and College Exploration: <http://www.texasgenuine.org/>
- Career Interest Survey: <http://assessment.texasgenuine.org/>

Student-Oriented Resources:

- <http://www.TexasGearUp.com>
- <http://www.OwnYourFuture.com>



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