

Frequently Asked Questions About 19 TAC Chapter 74

	Topic	Citation	Question	Answer
1.	Award of Credit	74.24 74.26	If a student is placed at a certain grade based on a review of the records, can the district award credit without an exam? For example, when reviewing records of a home-schooled student, how can the district determine placement?	<p>A district is not required to administer an examination in order to place a student transferring into the district, including a home-schooled student.</p> <p>A district "may use a variety of methods to verify the content of courses for which a transfer student has earned credit." A district can choose to use exams as a method but is not required to do so. It is recommended that local boards adopt a consistent written policy. As stated in a letter of September 21, 1998, the agency recommends the following guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elementary students should be assessed by means of a nationally recognized norm-referenced test or by a previously released TAKS exam of appropriate grade level. 2. Secondary students may be assessed by credit-by-examination for individual subject areas. 3. A secondary student assessed by credit-by-examination should be given adequate time to prepare for the test, particularly if multiple subject examinations are required.
2.	Award of Credit - Middle School	74.26(b)	Do high school courses taken in middle school count toward state graduation requirements?	Yes. A student may take high school courses in earlier grades and receive state graduation credit if the student has demonstrated achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course. It does not matter at what grade level the student demonstrated proficiency.

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3.	Award of Credit - Middle School	74.14(c) 74.26(b)	Can students who take high school courses while still in middle school have the option of not receiving the high school credit? For example, if a student received a 70 in Algebra I during the eighth grade and then retakes Algebra I during ninth grade and receives a 90, can the student use the higher grade and earn credit for that period of time?	The grade must be recorded on the Academic Achievement Record when the student completes the course. If a student takes the same course a second time, both grades must be recorded. District policy determines whether the student receives state graduation credit the first time or the second time (only local credit is available the other time) and which grade(s) to calculate in the student's grade point average (GPA).
4.	Award of Credit – Special Education	74.26	When a student in special education transfers, must the new district accept the course work and credit earned in locally designed courses for graduation assigned by the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee?	Yes.
5.	Award of Credit - Transfers	74.26(a)(1) 74.26(b)	Are there different requirements for awarding credit to students who transfer from out-of-state, private schools, or home schools versus in-state public schools?	Yes. Credit earned toward state graduation requirements by a student in an accredited school district shall be transferable and must be accepted by any other school district in the state. A school district must ensure that the records or transcripts of an out-of-state or out-of-country transfer student (including foreign exchange students) or a transfer student from a Texas nonpublic school are evaluated and that the student is awarded appropriate credit promptly.
6.	Award of Credit - Transfers	74.26(a)(1)	If a student transfers within the state with local credits, must the receiving district accept those credits?	No. Local credits may be transferred only with consent of the receiving district. State credit earned by students in accredited school districts, including summer school programs and credit by exam, or through correspondence courses must be transferable and must be accepted by any other school district in the state.
7.	Award of Credit by Semester	74.26(d)	May a district award one-half credit of a two-semester course?	In accordance with local district policy, students who are able to successfully complete only one semester of a two-semester course can be awarded credit proportionately.

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8.	Celebrate Freedom Week	74.33	What are schools required to do during Celebrate Freedom Week?	During Celebrate Freedom Week or during another full school week as determined by the board of trustees of a school district, social studies classes should include appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts.
9.	Celebrate Freedom Week	74.33	At what grade levels must Celebrate Freedom Week requirements be implemented?	Celebrate Freedom Week requirements should be implemented in social studies classes for Grades 3-12.
10.	Class Size Less than 10	74.3(b)(3) 74.22 74.23 74.25	If fewer than ten students wish to enroll in a specific course that is part of the required secondary curriculum, can the district transport these students during the school day to another campus or to a local college and pay their tuition in order to provide an alternative delivery system?	Yes. The rule requires that all students have an opportunity to receive instruction in the required secondary curriculum. Local policy determines the alternative delivery systems that will be offered to students if the district does not teach the course. Transporting students or providing distance education are among the options. Districts must pay any fees or other costs, including textbooks, for students to participate in these alternative delivery systems.
11.	Concurrent Enrollment	74.25	Are there other requirements for dual/concurrent enrollment in addition to those found in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25?	Yes. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) also has requirements related to dual/concurrent enrollment. Information may be found on the THECB website at http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/CBRules/tac.cfm . Chapter 4, Subchapter D addresses partnerships between secondary schools and Texas Public Colleges.

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12.	Concurrent Enrollment	74.25	How many college courses must a student take to receive one high school graduation credit?	It depends. To be awarded state graduation credit for a college course, the course must provide advanced academic instruction beyond or in greater depth than the TEKS for that course. It is the responsibility of the district to determine that all of the TEKS are being met in a course in order to determine award of credit. When this condition is met in one three-hour course, one state graduation credit can be awarded. When two three-hour courses are required, the student must complete both courses to receive one high school graduation credit.
13.	Correspondence Course - College Course	74.23 74.25	Can a school district limit the number of courses students can take through correspondence or college courses?	Yes. School districts can adopt policies locally for the number of credits students can earn through correspondence courses or college courses. However, credits earned from these courses while attending another accredited public school must be transferable and must be accepted by any other school district in the state.
14.	Concurrent Enrollment – Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Program	74.23 74.43 74.44 74.53 74.54	Chapter 74 clearly states that credits earned through concurrent enrollment can be used to meet requirements in the minimum graduation plan. Can credits earned through concurrent enrollment courses be applied to specific requirements in the Recommended High School Program and the Distinguished Achievement Program (for instance, English courses for English IV?)	Yes. Credits earned through concurrent enrollment may be used to meet requirements of the Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs if the content of the college course meets or exceeds the requirements of the high school course, as presented in the TEKS for that course.
15.	Credit by Exam - Acceleration	74.24	Can a student be accelerated by means other than during the six-days credit by examination is offered?	A school district may allow a student to accelerate at a time other than during the required six-days of exams by developing a cost-free option approved by the district board of trustees that allows students to demonstrate academic achievement or proficiency in a subject or grade level.

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16.	Credit by Exam - Acceleration	74.24	In Grades 1 through 5, if a student scores 90% in three areas and an 80% in the fourth foundation area, is that student eligible to be accelerated to the next grade level?	This is a local district decision and should be made in accordance with local district policy.
17.	Credit by Exam - Distinguished Achievement Program	74.11(d) 74.12(b) 74.13(a)(1) 74.13(a)(2)	Can students substitute credit by examination in the academic core components of the Distinguished Achievement Program as they can in the Recommended High School Program and the Minimum Program?	Yes.
18.	Credit by Exam - Eligibility	74.24	Can districts adopt local policies that would allow for screening of students for eligibility for credit by examination?	No. Statute does not authorize a school district to screen students for eligibility for credit by examination.
19.	Credit by Exam - Fee	74.24(a)(2)	Can districts charge for credit by examination?	Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.158(b)(7) states that the board of trustees of an independent school district may not charge fees for "admission to or examination in any required educational course or program." A school district shall not charge for an exam for acceleration. If a parent requests an alternative examination, the district may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or The University of Texas at Austin.
20.	Credit by Exam - GPA	74.24	Are grades earned through credit by exam used when computing a student's GPA or class rank?	This is a local decision. It is the district's responsibility to ensure that local guidelines clearly state whether or not the credit by exam scores will be used when computing a student's GPA or class rank and that students are notified in advance of the policy. If policy changes are made, it would be advisable to begin any change with the incoming freshman class.

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21.	Credit by Exam - Kindergarten	74.24	The credit by exam rule for kindergarten acceleration says that a district “must develop procedures for kindergarten acceleration.” Does this mean that a process for acceleration out of kindergarten must be in place or can a district’s policy state that students cannot accelerate out of kindergarten?	A district must have a policy that would allow students to accelerate out of kindergarten.
22.	Credit by Exam - Notification	74.24	It is stated in 19 TAC §74.24(a) that the dates the credit by exam will be administered must be publicized in the community. How do they have to be publicized?	Districts will want to assure that all parents have the opportunity to see the announcements of the dates of the examinations. Some suggestions might be to include dates in the school district handbook, newsletters that are sent to families, school announcements, or articles in the local newspaper.
23.	Credit by Exam - Number of Credits	74.24	Can a district limit the number of exams a student may take or the number of credits that may be earned through credit by exam?	No. There is no limit to the number of course credits or grade levels a student may earn by credit by exam.
24.	Credit by Exam - Retesting	74.24	If a student fails to score 90% on a credit by exam, can the student retest? Is there a limit to the number of times a student can retest any one exam? Is the district required to pay for the second exam during the same three-day test administration?	District policies govern the issue of retesting. Those policies may permit retesting during the same three day period or may require that students wait until the next administration. A school district shall not charge for an exam for acceleration.
25.	Credit by Exam - Source	74.24	Can teachers develop and score the exams that will be used for credit by exam?	While teachers may participate in the development of local exams, they are district level exams, not campus or teacher level exams. A school district must have the approval of the district board of trustees to develop its own tests. It is a district’s responsibility to ensure that locally-developed exams cover the TEKS for the grade or courses for which credit is being sought.

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26.	Credit by Exam - Source	74.24	Can districts develop local policies that require a student to take the district's locally developed tests for credit by exam rather than another exam of the student's choice?	A school district by policy selects the examination administered for credit by exam in that district. The district board of trustees must approve purchase or local development of the exam. Exams purchased by a parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin may be recognized. A school district may recognize results of certain other exams obtained at the parent's expense but is not required to do so.
27.	Credit by Exam - Subjects	74.3(b)(2) 74.24	Do districts have to offer a credit by exam option for every course/grade in the required elementary and secondary curriculum? Do they have to do so at every administration of the exams?	Yes. A school district must provide at least three days between January 1 and June 30 and three days between July 1 and December 31 annually when exams shall be administered in Grades 1-12. The days do not need to be consecutive but must be designed to meet the needs of all students. A district is required to offer credit by exam for all academic courses listed in the description of a required secondary curriculum found in §74.3(b)(2). Credit by examination may be offered for any other academic course that the district teaches.
28.	Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) - Advanced Measures	74.44(d) 74.54(d)	What are the advanced measures? What avenues are available for students to receive advanced measures?	Advanced measures include achievement in certain areas that focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level. Advanced measures may be earned in the following areas: original research/project, test data, and college academic courses. For additional information on advanced measures visit the following website: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted/QADAP.html

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29.	Distinguished Achievement Program - Advanced Measures	74.44(d) 74.54(d)	Under the Distinguished Achievement Program, if a student takes four three-hour semester college courses while a high school student and earns a grade of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent) on each course, will the student have completed four advanced measures?	Yes, with one exception. Tech Prep classes may be counted as an advanced measure on the DAP if they are part of the job-specific articulated sequence of study designed by the school district and the community or technical college. The courses in that sequence are to be established by the school district and the community college the student will attend after graduation. Since that articulated sequence is a six-year plan of study, students must complete the four courses that are part of the sequence while in high school. Only upon completion of the four courses in the sequence may the student be awarded an advanced measure for DAP credit.
30.	Distinguished Achievement Program - Advanced Measures	74.44(d) 74.54(d)	How can students use test scores on Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations as advanced measures when the scores are not received until after graduation?	It may be noted at graduation that the student is a candidate for DAP pending receipt of AP and/or IB exam scores. The same note may be placed on the academic achievement record until scores are received to finalize the transcript.
31.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28	Where can I locate information related to dyslexia?	Information may be obtained through the dyslexia hotline: 800-232-3030 ext. 1410 or at the following website: http://www2.ednet10.net/dyslexia/InformationNetwork.htm
32.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28	Can an instructional aide be used to deliver instruction in the dyslexia program?	No. Instructional aides may assist the certified teacher or provide additional help for students.
33.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28	What are the qualifications needed for the person who provides the instruction for the dyslexia program?	The teacher who is primarily responsible for instruction in the campus dyslexia program needs a valid Texas teaching certificate and must be trained for dyslexia and related disorders as referenced in 19 TAC §74.28. For teachers instructing elementary students, an elementary teaching certificate is necessary; in order to instruct secondary students, teachers need a secondary teaching certificate.

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34.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28(b)	Who qualifies as an individual/ professional able to screen for dyslexia and/or related disorders?	A person is qualified to screen for dyslexia and/or related disorders if he or she is knowledgeable about reading, understands the dyslexia program and guidelines, is familiar with the student being evaluated, understands the assessment procedures, and understands placement options.
35.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28(f)	If a district offers centralized services for its dyslexia program, and parents approve student attendance at a centralized location, must the district also have a teacher at individual campuses?	Services for students with dyslexia and/or related disorders must be provided at the student's home campus. Districts may offer additional services at a central location.
36.	Dyslexia and Related Disorders	74.28	Do the rules for dyslexia and/or related disorders also apply to students in special education?	These rules also apply to students in special education who have been identified as having dyslexia and/or related disorders.
37.	Elementary – Physical Activity	74.32	What are the physical activity requirements for elementary school students?	All students enrolled in full-day kindergarten or Grades 1-6 in an elementary school setting are required to participate in physical activity for a minimum of either 30 minutes daily or 135 minutes weekly.
38.	Elementary – Physical Activity	74.32	Is the physical activity requirement a requirement that all students take a P.E. class?	Not necessarily. The physical activity must be either through a TEKS-based physical education class or a TEKS-based structured activity.
39.	Elementary - Technology Applications	74.2	Are schools required to teach technology applications at Grades K-5?	Yes. Technology Applications is part of the required curriculum. The district may provide instruction in a variety of arrangements and settings, including integration of technology into curriculum areas.
40.	Foreign Exchange Students	74.26(a)(2)	What obligations does a school district have toward foreign exchange students wishing to receive a Texas high school diploma?	The district is obligated to use a variety of methods to examine and verify past instruction and the content that was covered in courses taken by foreign exchange students to place them in appropriate courses and to determine past credits earned. Students must then complete any coursework required for graduation in Texas where credit has not already been earned.

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41.	Graduation Requirements	74.26(b)	If a student completes Algebra I in middle school, can a district require three additional credits in mathematics for high school graduation?	A course must be considered completed and credit must be awarded if the student has demonstrated achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course, including demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter, regardless of the time the student has received instruction in the course or the grade level at which proficiency was attained. The academic achievement record (transcript) shall reflect that students have satisfactorily completed courses at earlier grade levels than Grades 9-12 and have been awarded state graduation credits. Only in a case where district policy establishes a requirement of four math credits would three additional credits be required for a student who completed Algebra I in middle school.
42.	Graduation Requirements – Academic Elective	74.42(b)(6) 74.52(b)(6)	In the minimum high school program, can a student substitute a course in mathematics or in languages other than English to meet the academic elective requirement? If not, can a waiver be requested?	A student must select from World History Studies, World Geography Studies, or a science course approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) to meet the academic elective requirement. There are no substitutions. State law does not allow high school graduation requirements to be waived.
43.	Graduation Requirements – Career and Technology as substitution for Physical Education	74.42(b)(7)(B) 74.43(b)(7)(B) 74.44(b)(7)(B) 74.52(b)(7)(B) 74.53(b)(7)(B) 74.54(b)(7)(B)	Does a school district have to request a waiver to count one and one-half credits of Career and Technology Education worked-based training courses for the required physical education (PE) credit?	No. Chapter 74 allows a school district board of trustees to determine which worked-based Career and Technology Education courses involve sufficient physical activity to meet up to one and one-half credits of the PE requirement.

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44.	Graduation Requirements – English as a Second Language	74.42(b)(1)(A) 74.43(b)(1)(A) 74.44(b)(1)(A) 74.52(b)(1)(A) 74.53(b)(1)(A) 74.54(b)(1)(A)	Which courses can students of limited English proficiency (LEP) take to satisfy English I and English II requirements?	English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages may satisfy graduation requirements for LEP students who are immigrants only. Non-immigrant LEP students must enroll in English I and English II.
45.	Graduation Requirements – English as a Second Language	74.42(b)(1)(A) 74.43(b)(1)(A) 74.44(b)(1)(A) 74.52(b)(1)(A) 74.53(b)(1)(A) 74.54(b)(1)(A)	Which English courses are required for LEP students who have completed English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages?	LEP students who have completed English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages must enroll in English III and English IV.
46.	Graduation Requirements – Fine Arts	74.42(b)(8) 74.43(b)(8) 74.44(b)(8) 74.52(b)(8) 74.53(b)(8) 74.54(b)(8)	How are the fine arts defined?	The fine arts are defined as art, music, theater, and dance.
47.	Graduation Requirements – Health Science Technology	74.11(d)(8) 74.12(b)(7) 74.13(a)(G)	Which Health Science Technology courses count for the health graduation requirement?	Introduction to Health Science Technology (one credit), Health Science Technology I (one to two credits), or Health Science Technology II (two to four credits) will satisfy the graduation requirement for health.

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48.	Graduation Requirements – Implementation Schedule	74.51 74.52 74.53 74.54	What are the changes in graduation requirement plans beginning in 2004?	Specific revisions for students entering Grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year and thereafter include the recommended high school program as the default graduation plan. Students are required to earn at least 24 credits. Three credits of science are required. One credit must be a biology credit, and the other two must be from integrated physics and chemistry, chemistry, or physics. Three credits of mathematics are required, and must include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. A fourth option for earning the one credit of technology applications was added, allowing students who participate in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep high school plan of study to use three credits consisting of two or more state-approved career and technology courses.
49.	Graduation Requirements – Implementation Schedule	74.61 74.62 74.63 74.64	What are the changes in graduation requirement plans beginning in 2007?	In July 2004, the SBOE adopted a new 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter F, describing graduation requirements beginning with school year 2007-08. Students entering Grade 9 in the 2007-08 school year and thereafter will be required to demonstrate proficiency in science by earning four science credits to complete the RHSP or the DAP. Subchapter F will expire on September 1, 2007, unless the board, on or before August 1, 2007, determines that sufficient funding has been appropriated by the legislature to implement the new requirement.
50.	Graduation Requirements – Minimum Program	74.42(b)(3) 74.52(b)(3)	In the minimum graduation program, which courses can students take to meet science graduation requirements?	Students in the minimum graduation plan must take two credits of science. The credits must consist of Biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). A student may substitute Chemistry or Physics for IPC and then must use the second of these two courses as the academic elective credit required for graduation.

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51.	Graduation Requirements – Physical Education	74.42(b)(7) 74.43(b)(7) 74.44(b)(7) 74.52(b)(7) 74.53(b)(7) 74.54(b)(7)	Is the Foundations of Personal Fitness class required of all students?	The one and one-half credits of physical education required for high school graduation must include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). However, the school district board of trustees may allow a student to substitute certain physical activities for the required credits in physical education, including the Foundations of Personal Fitness.
52.	Graduation Requirements – Physical Education	74.42(b)(7) 74.43(b)(7) 74.44(b)(7) 74.52(b)(7) 74.53(b)(7) 74.54(b)(7)	Are the PE requirements the same for all graduation plans?	Yes.
53.	Graduation Requirements – Principles of Technology Course Credit Status	74.43(b)(3) 74.44(b)(3) 74.53(b)(3) 74.54(b)(3)	May the Principles of Technology I and II courses count for either science or technology applications credit?	No. The Principles of Technology courses count as science or as Technology Education/Industrial Education credit only. These courses <u>do not</u> count for Technology Applications credit.
54.	Graduation Requirements – Reading	74.41(e) 74.51(e)	Is Reading still offered for state elective graduation credit in high school?	Students can earn state elective graduation credit for Reading I, II, or III under the following two conditions. The local school board must have adopted policies to identify students in need of additional reading instruction and district procedures must include assessment of individual student needs, ongoing evaluation of each student's progress, and monitoring of instructional activities to ensure that student needs are addressed. A student may obtain up to three state-approved elective credits for Reading.
55.	Graduation Requirements – Sequence	74.3	Do courses have to be taken during a specific year? For instance, must a student take World History in Grade 10 or Algebra II in Grade 11 or Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and its Benefits in either Grade 11 or 12?	No. Local policy may address the recommended year for taking a specific course for planning purposes but a required sequence is not provided in the rule. When creating district level policy, however, districts should ensure that students will have the opportunity to complete appropriate coursework prior to taking the exit level TAKS.

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56.	Graduation Requirements – Social Studies	74.42(b)(4) 74.42(c) 74.43(b)(4) 74.43(c) 74.44(b)(4) 74.44(c) 74.52(b)(4) 74.52(c) 74.53(b)(4) 74.53(c) 74.54(b)(4) 74.54(c)	May either United States History Studies Since Reconstruction or Advanced Placement United States History be used to satisfy the state graduation requirement for one credit in United States History Studies?	Yes. If United States History Studies Since Reconstruction is used to fulfill the graduation requirement, Advanced Placement United States History may be counted for state elective credit. If Advanced Placement United States History is used to fulfill the graduation requirement, United States History Studies Since Reconstruction may be counted for state elective credit.
57.	Graduation Requirements – Social Studies	74.42(b)(4) 74.43(b)(4) 74.44(b)(4) 74.52(b)(4) 74.53(b)(4) 74.54(b)(4)	Must a district offer both World History Studies and World Geography Studies?	Yes. Both World History Studies and World Geography Studies are required for students to graduate under the Recommended High School Program or the Distinguished Achievement Program.
58.	Graduation Requirements – Speech	74.42(b)(9) 74.43(b)(9) 74.44(b)(9) 74.52(b)(9) 74.53(b)(9) 74.54(b)(9)	Which courses will satisfy the one-half credit of speech for high school graduation?	Communication Applications is the only course that will satisfy the speech graduation requirement.
59.	Graduation Requirements – Speech	74.43(b)(11) 74.44(b)(11) 74.53(b)(11) 74.54(b)(11)	Can speech substitute for fine arts?	No. Speech is not a fine arts course.
60.	Graduation Requirements – Speech	74.42(b)(9) 74.43(b)(9) 74.44(b)(9) 74.52(b)(9) 74.53(b)(9) 74.54(b)(9)	Can students take the innovative course Teen Leadership to satisfy the speech requirement?	No.

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61.	Graduation Requirements – Technology Applications	74.42(b)(10) 74.43(b)(10) 74.44(b)(10) 74.52(b)(10) 74.53(b)(10) 74.54(b)(10)	What is the graduation requirement for technology applications credit?	Students are required to have one technology applications graduation credit under all graduation plans.
62.	Graduation Requirements – Technology Applications	74.42(b)(10) 74.43(b)(10) 74.44(b)(10) 74.52(b)(10) 74.53(b)(10) 74.54(b)(10)	Which one-credit courses count for the technology applications graduation credit?	All technology applications courses satisfy this requirement: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, and Independent Study in Technology Applications. Several courses in Career and Technology Education satisfy this requirement: Business Education courses– Business Computer Information Systems I and II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, and Business Image Management and Multimedia; Technology Education/Industrial Technology courses–Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communication Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), and Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology.
63.	Innovative Courses	74.27	What is the status of the innovative course approval process?	A school district may develop innovative courses to cover material that is not already included in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Each district must receive approval from the commissioner to offer discipline-based courses for state elective graduation credit. Courses that do not fall within a specific subject area, such as the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program, must be approved by the SBOE. Applications for innovative courses must be submitted to the Agency at least six months prior to implementation.

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64.	Innovative Courses	74.27(a)	Do districts have to apply to the Texas Education Agency for approval in order to offer state elective graduation credit for PAL, Student Leadership, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Teen Leadership, Reconnecting Youth, Bridging the Educational Scene for Teachers of Tomorrow (BESTT), Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program (CCVYP), or Youth Empowerment Service programs?	No. Since these courses were submitted by a sponsoring organization and are currently approved as innovative courses, districts do not need to apply for approval to offer them. However, in order for students to obtain state elective graduation credit for these courses, districts must obtain the required curriculum materials and professional development through the sponsoring organizations of these courses. For more information about these innovative courses visit: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/innovative.html
65.	Magnet Course Programs	74.27(b)	Do districts have to apply to the TEA in order to offer magnet courses for state elective graduation credit?	Yes. If the courses are not already SBOE approved courses then the process and timeline are the same as the innovative course process.
66.	Middle School - Languages Other Than English	74.3(a) 74.26(b)	What are the options for offering courses in languages other than English in the middle grades?	The school district must ensure that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn. Therefore, Level I of a language other than English, for example, may be offered in 4, 3, or 2 semesters of instruction depending on the needs of the student population. Middle school students who successfully complete the TEKS for a high school course must be awarded high school graduation credit, regardless of the length of time of the instruction.
67.	Middle School - Technology Applications	74.3(a)	What options do schools have for technology applications at Grades 6-8?	Specific courses at the middle school are not required. Instead, districts have the flexibility of offering technology applications in a variety of settings, including a specific class or integrated into other subject areas.
68.	Recommended High School Program and Distinguished Achievement Program - Mathematics	74.12(b)(2)	If a student skips a required course, such as Geometry, and takes a higher mathematics course, such as Precalculus, can the higher mathematics course substitute for required courses?	No. There are no substitutions in either the Recommended High School Program or the Distinguished Achievement Program. Students can satisfy the requirement through credit by exam and advance to the next course.
69.	Required Curriculum	74.1(b)	Are school districts required to offer both enrichment and foundation curriculum?	Yes, as defined in §74.1 and in the Texas Education Code §28.002(c) schools are required to teach the TEKS for all enrichment and foundation areas.

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70.	Required Curriculum	74.1	When did enrichment subjects become part of the required curriculum?	SB 815 became effective in the 2003-04 school year. The SBOE adopted amendments to TAC 74.1(b), Subchapter A, in September of 2004. However, school districts could apply to the Commissioner of Education for an extension for implementation of this requirement until the 2004-05 school year and could reapply in the summer of 2004 to delay implementation until the 2005-06 school year.
71.	Required Curriculum	74.1(a)(2)	School districts that offer kindergarten through Grade 12 must offer as a required curriculum a foundation and an enrichment curriculum, the latter of which includes, "to the extent possible, languages other than English." What does the phrase "to the extent possible" mean?	Under the Recommended program students must complete levels 1 and 2 of a language other than English in order to graduate. At the secondary level, a district must offer at least two levels of the same language in order for the student to fulfill this requirement. At the elementary level schools should include at least one language other than English in the curriculum either integrated into the teaching of other areas or as a stand alone area.
72.	Required Curriculum	74.3(b)	Must a school district offer all the courses listed in the required secondary curriculum?	Schools must offer all of the courses necessary for students to graduate at least under the Recommended high school program, including those listed in §74.3(b)(2). Furthermore, districts must teach a course in the required curriculum in which ten or more students want to enroll. If the district intends to offer particular courses only every other year, it must notify all enrolled students of that fact.

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73.	Required Curriculum – Elementary Staffing	74.2	If all subjects/courses of the foundation and enrichment content areas are required at each elementary grade level (K-5), will school districts be required to employ additional teachers (i.e., specialists) for all enrichment subjects/courses, including health, physical education, art, music, theatre, technology applications, and languages other than English?	School districts still have the option of integrating the enrichment content areas, compartmentalizing each subject, assigning a specialist for each area, and/or implementing other methods of instruction to support student attainment of TEKS standards. It is a district decision how best to ensure that all of the TEKS are being taught. A study of the enrichment TEKS will show how closely many of the enrichment TEKS tie to the foundation TEKS in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The enrichment TEKS can support the teaching of the foundation TEKS and the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) objectives.
74.	Required Curriculum – Physical Education	74.2 74.3(a)	Are public school students required to take PE in elementary and middle school?	PE must be offered in grades K-12 as a part of the required curriculum in Texas. It is up to a local school district to decide whether PE is to be a required subject in a district or an elective subject in grades K-8.
75.	Required Secondary Curriculum	74.3(b)(1)	Can a student receive credit for two courses with essentially the same content if one of the courses is an Advanced Placement course? For example, can a student receive credit for both United States Government and AP US Government and Politics or for both Art History and AP Art History?	With the exception of United States History Studies and AP American History, for both of which students can receive state graduation credit, students cannot take two courses with essentially the same content and earn two state graduation credits.
76.	Science SBOE recommendations	74.43(b)(3) 74.44(b)(3) 74.53(b)(3) 74.54(b)(3)	Which science courses are students following the Recommended High School Program and the Distinguished Achievement Program encouraged to take?	The SBOE recommends that all students who wish to complete the Recommended High School Program and the Distinguished Achievement Program take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
77.	Ten student rule	74.3(b)(4)	What was the change made in TAC 74.3(4), Subchapter A related to the “ten student rule” for offering courses in grades 9-12?	A clarification was made to the rule specified in TAC 74.3(4) requiring districts to “teach a course in which ten or more students indicate they will participate.” The 10-student rule, based on the adopted language, only applies to courses that are required for graduation.