

Elgin Independent School District Information

Awarding of Credits

For a two-semester course in which both semesters are completed in the fall and spring of the same school year, each semester's grade stands on its own. A full credit will be awarded if the average of the fall and spring semesters is at least 70. Students transferring in during the spring semester with a failing fall semester grade may receive credit under this policy.

Middle School Grade Level Promotion Policy

To be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, Grade 7 to Grade 8, and Grade 8 to Grade 9, students must meet all the following criteria:

- Earn a yearly average of 70 or above in three of the following areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Earn an overall average of 70 when all subjects taken are averaged together.
- Meet the 90 percent state-mandated requirement for attendance.
- 8th graders must pass STAAR Math and Reading for promotion.

High School Grade Level Classifications

The classifications below are based on the number of credits completed prior to the first day of school.

Freshman	1st year	0-5.5 earned credit
Sophomore	2nd year (+)	6-11.5 earned credit
Junior	3rd year (+)	12-17.5 earned credit
Senior	4th year (+)	18 earned credit

Transfer Grade Policy

The following numerical values will be used for letter grades transferred to the school:

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 79	D+ = 74	F = 65
A = 95	B = 85	C = 77	D = 72	
A- = 90	B- = 80	C- = 75	D- = 70	

Transfers from Home School or Non-Accredited Private School

A student returning to public middle school from home schooling or a non-accredited private school will need to demonstrate mastery of basic skills up to the grade level to which he or she is assigned. Students will be given a Board-approved Credit by Exam assessment.

College Course Grade Conversions

Austin Community College and higher education institutions typically use the following grading system:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points per Semester Credit
A	Excellent	4
B	Good	3
C	Satisfactory	2
D	Minimum Passing	1
F	Failing	0
I	Incomplete	Not Computed
W	Withdrawn	Not Computed

Upon course completion, Elgin High School will use the following numerical values for purposes such as calculating GPA and rank in place of the alpha grades assigned by the higher education partnering institution:

A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 70	F = 65
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Academic Achievement and Grade Point Average

Class Rank

Class rank is the academic position a student has in relation to other students in the grade level. Class rank is reported comparing that student to the total number of students in the grade level. The position or rank shall be reported as “number () out of () students in graduating class.” The student with the highest rank average is number one in the grade level and the student with the lowest rank average is the last student in the grade level. For example, given 250 students in a grade level, the highest ranking student (number one) would be reported as number 1 out of 250 students; the lowest ranking student would be reported as number 250 out of 250 students. All other students are ranked in between highest (number one) and lowest (last). Example: Student A is ranked number 6 out of 250 students in the graduating class. Class rank is first reported the summer after a student’s freshman year.

A weighted GPA is used to determine class rank. Weighted class ranking encourages students to take more challenging academic courses in preparation for further learning after high school, as students will receive a higher weighted rank point for the more difficult level courses. Courses included in the weighted GPA computation are listed in the *Chart – Weighted GPA Courses*. While courses are weighted when figuring class rank, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts.

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively, as determined at the end of the sixth six weeks (end of the year). To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the two full school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement; and
3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.

Academic Honors

Honor students’ rankings are calculated using grades through the end of the fifth six-weeks grading period of their senior year. The students ranked as numbers one and two shall be selected to give honor addresses for graduation exercises. Senior class ranking for the purpose of determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian is calculated at the end of the final week of the sixth six-week grading period.

Recognition for academic honors will be given to the following graduating seniors:

- Valedictorian – The highest-ranking fourth-year student
- Salutatorian – The second highest-ranking fourth-year student
- Honor Students – The top ten ranking students, including the valedictorian and salutatorian
- Summa Cum Laude – The top five percent of the class
- Magna Cum Laude – The top ten percent of the class
- Cum Laude – The top fifteen percent of the class

Chart - Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale

Two GPAs will be shown on the transcript: a weighted GPA and an un-weighted GPA. The weighted GPA is used to determine class rank and is listed as “GPA” on student transcripts. The un-weighted GPA is listed as “College 4-Point” on student transcripts. The college 4-point GPA is the cumulative average of semester grades, including courses that are taken more than once, regardless of credit awarded.

Each semester grade earns points based on the scale shown below:

GPA	College 4-point GPA
101 – 120	4 points
100 – 90	
89 – 80	3 points
79 – 75	2 points
74 – 70	1 point
69 – 0	0 points
The total points are divided by the total number of applicable semester grades.	

Weighted Courses Grading Policy

Student performance is evaluated on rigorous standards appropriate for the level and content of the course. Eligible courses receive weight when figuring class rank; however, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts. In order to receive weighted points at the semester for an eligible weighted course, the student must be enrolled in the course for the entire second and third six weeks of each semester and fulfill all requirements for the course, including taking the corresponding AP exam. If an advanced course is dropped within a semester, the un-weighted grade transfers to the new class.

If a student drops a dual credit course by the college census date, approximately two weeks after the start of the dual credit course, he or she can enroll in a corresponding Elgin High School course. If a student drops a dual credit course after the college census date, the student will be placed in an un-weighted (regular level) course with a transfer grade of 65, unless the school receives official grade information from the college. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain official grade information from the dual credit professor. For college purposes, the last day students can drop a dual credit course with a "W" will be in accordance with the corresponding college calendar.

Chart – Weighted GPA Courses

The courses eligible for inclusion in the weighted GPA are semester grades earned for high school credit in the following subjects only: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, and speech. The weighted GPA is calculated by multiplying each semester grade by a multiplier, as indicated in the chart below.

Weighted Multiplier	Courses Included Weighted GPA Computation*
Level 1 0.9	Eligible courses that have been modified by an ARD committee and determined to justify lower weight based on modified content. Any course used to meet the district speech requirement.
Level 2 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ English I-IV, ESOL I-II, College Preparation English ◇ Spanish I-II, <i>Spanish III-IV</i> ◇ Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Advanced Quantitative Reasoning, Algebraic Reasoning, College Preparation Math, <i>Engineering Math, Math in Agriculture, Math Models, Robotics 2, Statistics</i> ◇ Biology, Chemistry, Physics, IPC, Environmental Systems, Advanced Animal Science, Advanced Plant and Soil, Anatomy and Physiology, <i>Food Science, Forensic Science, Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology I and II, Pathophysiology</i> ◇ World Geography, World History, US History, Economics, Government
Level 3 1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Advanced English I-II ◇ Advanced Spanish I-III, Advanced Spanish for Spanish Speakers I-II (<i>III</i>) ◇ <i>Advanced Algebra I, Advanced Geometry, Advanced Algebra II</i> ◇ Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, <i>Advanced Physics</i> ◇ <i>Advanced World Geography, Advanced World History</i>
Level 4 1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ AP English III-IV, Dual Credit English III-IV ◇ AP Spanish IV- V, Dual Credit Spanish I-IV ◇ AP Calculus, Dual Credit College Algebra, Dual Credit College Math, Dual Credit Statistics, OnRamps Pre-Calculus, OnRamps Statistics ◇ AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics I, <i>Dual Credit Biology for Non Majors, Dual Credit Environmental Systems, Dual Credit Life on Earth, Dual Credit Scientific Research and Design</i> ◇ AP European History, AP Government, AP Human Geography, <i>AP Micro Economics, AP US History, AP World History, Dual Credit US History II, Dual Credit U.S. Government, Dual Credit Economics</i> ◇ AP Computer Science <p>Note: Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP examination in order to fulfill the requirements of the course and earn weighted points. Elgin ISD assumes the cost of all AP exams.</p> <p>Exception: If a dual credit speech course is taken to meet the district speech requirement, the course will be weighted at 0.9. If a student has already met the district speech requirement, then a dual credit speech course will have zero weight.</p>

Note italicized courses are not currently offered by EISD.

*Additional courses that are approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in Chapter 74 of the Texas Administrative Code may be included for transfer students in the Elgin ISD weighted GPA and Rank calculations. When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar courses are offered to the same class of students in the District. EIC (LOCAL)

Earning College Credit and Special Programs

Gifted and Talented Program

In Elgin ISD, the needs of Gifted and Talented students are met in several ways. In the four core subject areas, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, identified gifted students may choose to participate in advanced, Advanced Placement, and dual credit courses with gifted instruction being provided by teachers trained in both Gifted Education and Advanced Placement methodologies.

Advanced and Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are developed by the College Board and are designed to provide college-level studies for high school students using college level materials and strategies. Amount and depth of material requires students to read and develop advanced reasoning and problem solving skills. These courses are offered for students who wish to pursue college-level studies while in high school.

Advanced courses include activities and strategies designed to engage students in active, high-level learning. Students will develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in future AP classes. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class. Advanced courses are offered in grades 6-12.

Advanced and Advanced Placement course expectations include:

- Independent research and projects (individual or group)
- Maintaining a minimum grade of 70 (un-weighted)
- Passing AP/advanced class with 70 or above to receive grade weighting
- If a student's course average drops below 75 or a student is missing two or more assignments, the student will be required to attend tutorials until their course average is above 75 and all missing assignments are complete

A student or teacher initiated change from an advanced or AP level course to a regular level course may only take place after the first six weeks of instruction and must involve the following steps:

- A student completes the requirements of an exit form and submits the form for administrative review
- A parent, student, and teacher conference to discuss student achievement
- Administrator review of student exit form and conference with student and parent regarding possible effects on GPA and graduation plans

A student or teacher initiated change from a regular level course to an advanced or AP level course must occur within the first six weeks of each semester in order to receive weighted credit and may depend on approval from the student's instructor or administrator.

Note: Schedule changes are subject to course availability. The student's un-weighted grade will transfer to the course in which the student enters.

Advanced Placement Exams

In addition to high school credit, students may receive credit or appropriate placement from participating colleges provided they make acceptable scores on AP exams, which are administered in May and paid for by the district. Exams may also be taken by students who do not enroll in advanced placement courses in high school. Students should go to www.collegeboard.org or see their counselor for additional information. In order to fulfill the requirements of an AP course and earn weighted points, students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP exam.

Early College Associate Degree Programs with Austin Community College

In Elgin ISD, our goal is to increase the numbers of students graduating from high school with some form of higher education. To help achieve this goal, Elgin has partnered with Austin Community College (ACC) to offer an Early College High School (ECHS) and a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH). The school within a school model utilized by Elgin ISD benefits our student population by allowing students numerous opportunities to earn up to 60 college hours towards the core 42 or an associate's degree at no cost to families. In addition, the P-TECH Academy is aligned to work with welding industry community partners to help propel students through high school, earn an Associate's degree from Austin Community College, and earn an American Welding Society (AWS) professional certification. Students interested in either ECHS or P-TECH should see their counselors for more information about these programs and the application process. See chart below for a comparison of both programs and website location.

	Early College (ECHS)	Pathways in Technology (P-TECH)
Eligibility	All 8th, 9th and 10th grade students	All 8th and 9th grade students.
Application	(1) Complete and submit the application (2) Complete interview (3) Attend at least one open house meeting with a parent.	
Enrollment	100 Students per cohort.	12 Students per cohort.
Lottery System	When the number of applicants exceeds the number of allowable students, a weighted, blind lottery will be used to select students for admission. If a student does not get into the program initially then they will be put on a waiting list.	
Summer Bridge	Required attendance in June (2 Weeks) for incoming 9 th grade students.	
TSI Testing	Students must pass the TSI Reading and Writing tests to be eligible to begin classes at ACC. Students are expected to be TSI complete by the end of their eleventh grade year. The minimum passing score for reading is 351. The minimum Passing score for writing is 340 (essay score of 4 or 5). The minimum Passing score for math is a 350.	
Degree	Associate of Arts Degree	Associate of Applied Science Degree Structural Welding Level 1 Certificate Inert Gas Welding OSA
Extra-Curricular	Students are able to participate in Extra-Curricular activities granted there are no scheduling conflicts.	
Tuition	No cost to students.	
Textbooks	No cost to students.	
Website	https://sites.google.com/elginisd.net/elginechs/home	https://sites.google.com/elginisd.net/ptech/home

OnRamps with The University of Texas at Austin

OnRamps' innovative dual-enrollment program brings rigorous courses aligned with the high standards and expectations of The University of Texas at Austin to Elgin ISD students. Students are enrolled in a yearlong course taught by their high school teacher for high school credit. During the school year, OnRamps students must complete a series of required assignments designated by an Instructor of Record at The University of Texas at Austin. Students must earn a grade that would be equivalent to UT Austin credit or better on the required assignments to be eligible to for dual enrollment in the university and to earn college credit. The university's Instructor of Record will award students the appropriate grade based on their performance for the college course. The high school teacher will separately award credit for the grade earned in the high school course, which may differ from that for the college course.

Swift Coding with APPLE and with Austin Community College

A partnership between Austin Community College, Lamar University, Apple, and Elgin ISD stimulates excitement and learning potential in computer programming and mobile application development. With support through Apple, students are able to experience, learn and develop skills of critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication on iPads, Macbooks and other connected devices. A series of classes develop workforce competencies in computer programming, user experience, and design. Swift, Python and other programming languages are studied to prepare a student to be recognized in the computer programming workforce as knowledgeable in skills needed in this growing field. Students will develop projects and applications that can be added to a digital portfolio and resume. Elgin ISD provides additional dual credit classes for students to have the opportunity to achieve Swift Level 1 Workforce certification through Austin Community College while attending classes at Elgin High School. Students with this certification will have the understanding to start an entry-level programming job at many of the largest businesses in and outside of the Austin area.

Additional Ways to Earn College Credit While in High School

Dual Credit – High school students may enroll in college concurrently with high school to extend learning or accumulate college hours. Credit earned through dual credit counts for college and high school credit and fulfills high school graduation requirements if the college course covers required state curriculum. Courses may occur face to face or through distance learning. Dual enrollment credit is accepted by Texas public universities. Students who plan to attend a private or out of state college or university should check with schools regarding their policy of accepting dual or concurrent enrollment courses. There are a variety of dual credit courses offered in both the academic and career and technology areas, however, all college-level courses are not dual credit courses.

Concurrent Enrollment – Concurrent enrollment courses are college courses students can take at the college for college credit while enrolled in high school. This course will not be posted on the high school transcript nor will the credit count toward state high school graduation credit. Thus, the concurrent course will not be counted in the rank or GPA.

The Advanced Technical Credit Program – The Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) Program is a statewide articulation program which provides a method for students who continue technical programs of study in a public two-year college after graduation to receive banked (in escrow) college credit while earning high school credit for courses that are part of an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree or certificate plan. In escrow means the college credit will not be shown on a college transcript the semester in which the high school course is taken. After graduation and upon acceptance to a college, it is the student's responsibility to check with his or her intended college as to the steps he or she must take to ensure documentation of any ATC/statewide articulated courses that the college chooses to accept for their documentation of earned college credit.

Local Articulation Options – Eligible locally articulated courses provide high school students additional options for award of college credit from a two-year college by taking high school courses that are part of an Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS) degree plan. Each course has its own locally developed articulation agreement which will determine how and when the college credit will be shown on the two-year college’s transcript. It is the student’s responsibility to check with his or her intended college as to the steps he or she must take to ensure documentation of any locally articulated courses that the college chooses to accept for credit. This will often require the student to request a college transcript be sent from the 2-year college, for example Austin Community College (ACC), to their intended college

Texas Success Initiative Assessment & Compliance

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment is designed to help your institution determine if you are ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. If you are an incoming college student in Texas, you are required to take the TSI Assessment, unless you are already exempt (read below). Based on how you perform, when you enroll in a Texas college you may either be enrolled in a college-level course that matches your skill level or be placed in the appropriate developmental course or intervention to improve your skills and prepare you for success in college level courses.

You may be exempt if you:

- Met the minimum college readiness standard on SAT®, ACT, or English III or Algebra II STAAR EOC
- Have successfully completed college-level English and math courses
- Have enrolled in a Level 1 Certificate Program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours)
- Are not seeking a degree
- Have been, or currently are, in the military
- Successfully complete a college preparatory course under Texas Education Code §28.014

If you think you may be exempt, please contact an advisor at your institution. For more information, visit the website at www.theccb.state.tx.us

Chart - State-Approved Scores for TSI Compliance

Assessment	Math Score (valid for 5 years)	Reading/Writing Score (valid for 5 years)
TSI Assessment	Math ≥ 350	Reading ≥ 351; Writing: (A) Multiple choice ≥ 340 and Essay ≥ 4; or (B) Multiple choice < 340, ABE ≥ 4 and Essay = 5
ACT	Math ≥ 19 and Composite ≥ 23	English ≥ 19 and Composite ≥ 23pl
SAT prior to March 5, 2016	Math ≥ 500 and Combined ≥ 1070	Reading ≥ 500 and Combined ≥ 1070
SAT on/after March 5, 2016	Math ≥ 530	EBRW ≥ 480

Note TSIA2 will replace TSIA effective fall 2020. TSIA2 will launch on August 31, 2020. Additional information is pending release from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Chart – Comparison of College Credit Programs Offered at EHS

Program	Advanced Placement	ECHS	P-TECH	Dual Credit	Swift Coding	OnRamps	
Description	The Advanced Placement program offers students a chance to engage in college level classes that are more challenging and faster-paced than traditional high school courses. Students have the opportunity to test for college credit.	Early College High School is a program that allows students the opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit and their Associate Degree from Austin Community College.	Pathways in Technology Early College High School program gives students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, an industry-recognized Associate Degree in welding, and relevant work experience.	Students taking dual credit classes can earn credit for both high school and college. This program gives students the opportunity to take college classes and still have a flexible schedule.	Students have the opportunity to achieve Swift Level 1 Workforce certification through Austin Community College while attending programming and software development classes at the high school.	The OnRamps program allows students to take courses developed by and aligned with the standards and expectations of UT Austin at both the high school and college level.	
Certification or Degree Opportunity	Not applicable	Associates of Arts Degree	Associate of Applied Science Degree AWS Level I Certifications	Not applicable	SWIFT Apple Certification	Not applicable	
Eligibility	Open to any high school student.	Open to any high school student. To be eligible to take college courses, students must pass the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) test.	Open to any high school student.	Open to any high school student. TSI is not required to take college courses.			
Teachers/ Instructors	High school teachers with training from the College Board	Austin Community College adjunct professors				High school teachers with training from UT Austin; UT Austin faculty serve as instructors of record and evaluate students' progress according to University standards	
Location	High school campus or online (if offered)	High school campus, college campus, or online				High school campus and online	
Costs	Elgin ISD provides textbooks and pays for Advanced Placement exams.	All programs are offered at no cost to student or families					Elgin ISD and the University of Texas at Austin provide all materials.

Program	Advanced Placement	ECHS	P-TECH	Dual Credit	Swift Coding	OnRamps
Enrollment	<p>All programs are subject to contract requiring guardian approval</p> <p>Student enrolls during high school course registration.</p>					
Awarding of Credit	<p>Student enrolls during high school course registration.</p> <p>High school credit is awarded when the student passes the course.</p> <p>College credit may be awarded depending on the student's score on the AP exam.</p> <p>Individual colleges and universities determine course credit and placement.</p>	<p>Enrollment is by application only and subject to a weighted, blind lottery system. Applications are initially due in the spring of a student's 8th grade year.</p> <p>High school and college credit is awarded when the student passes the course.</p> <p>The adjunct college professor determines the grade and criteria by which the student passes the course.</p>		<p>Student enrolls during high school course registration.</p>		<p>The high school teacher awards credit based on the grade earned in the high school course, which may differ from that for the college course.</p> <p>The university's Instructor of Record awards students a college grade based on their performance in the college course.</p> <p>The student may accept a passing college grade to earn college credit.</p>
Transcript Implications	<p>Course grade appears on a student's high school transcript, not on their college transcript.</p>	<p>Course grade appears on a student's high school and college transcript.</p> <p>Note under the college's Academic Standards of Progress policy, a student who does not meet a cumulative 2.0 or greater GPA will be given a warning and may receive probation or be suspended from the college. This could have lasting impacts on student financial aid and acceptance into other institutions of higher education.</p>				<p>High school course grade appears on a student's high school transcript.</p> <p>College course grades appear on a student's college transcript only if the student accepts a passing college grade for the course.</p>
High School GPA and Class Rank	<p>All eligible Advanced Placement, Early College High School, Pathways in Technology, Dual Credit, and OnRamps courses are calculated in a student's weighted GPA using a 1.2 multiplier. A student's weighted GPA is used to determine class rank. See Chart – Weighted GPA Courses for a complete list of eligible courses.</p>					

Alternative High School Credit Opportunities

All credits earned through alternative means, as described below, will be used in determining academic honors. All grades earned, including high school courses taken at the middle school, will be used in class rank except for those courses not included in the ranking system. Grades transferred must be from a four-year accredited high school to be accepted. If a student transfers from an unaccredited school, only grades earned through Elgin ISD high school will be used for determining averages for ranking for academic honors.

Correspondence Courses

Students may use distance learning courses, including correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. In order to receive credit, a student shall obtain approval from the principal or designee prior to enrollment in the course. Only correspondence courses from University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University, Texas Virtual School Network or a Commissioner of Education approved public university are acceptable. Seniors should complete their work and submit the grade for recording at least thirty days prior to their graduation date in order to be eligible for graduation at the end of the term.

Credit by Exam with Prior Instruction

A student who has previously taken a course or subject, but did not receive credit is permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject. Prior instruction may include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited school. The school counselor or principal will determine if the student can take an exam for this purpose. The student must score at least 70 on the exam to receive credit for the course or subject. Refer to Elgin ISD's website Credit by Exam & Accelerated Testing page for testing dates, registration deadlines, and additional information.

Credit by Exam without Prior Instruction

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course or subject area for which the student has had no prior instruction or to accelerate to the next grade level. A student must score at least 80 on the exam (or a score designated by the state for an exam that has alternate scoring standards) to receive credit for the course or subject. A student may take an exam to earn course credit no more than twice. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam, he or she must enroll in and complete the course. If a student plans to take an exam, he or she (or parent) must register with the principal or designee in accordance with district policy. Refer to Elgin ISD's website Credit by Exam & Accelerated Testing page for testing dates, registration deadlines, and additional information.

Summer School/Semester

Students may attend an out of district, accredited summer school, provided that approval of the principal or counselor is obtained before enrolling. Summer school work can be used for the purpose of making up work that has been failed during the regular term, strengthening areas where a student is weak, giving a student an opportunity to avail himself or herself of courses that cannot be taken during the regular term because of scheduling conflicts, and obtaining credits for acceleration purposes. Students may be required to attend in district summer school to recover credits or prepare for and take an End of Course exam.

Credit Recovery

Students may gain credit through computer-assisted instruction for courses previously failed. Not all courses are eligible for recovery. Students should contact their school counselor for information.

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2011-2012. STAAR includes the five high school end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by HB 5 in 2013 and grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. The tests are rigorous, with an emphasis on alignment to college and career readiness standards.

The following STAAR tests are required at each grade level in Middle School:

- 6th Grade: Math and Reading
- 7th Grade: Math, Reading, and Writing
- 8th Grade: Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies

Note: Students are subject to Student Success Initiative (SSI) requirements to pass math and reading STAAR at 8th grade before promotion to high school. Students taking Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the Algebra 1 EOC test.

Per FMH (LOCAL), to be eligible to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies, a student shall meet all state and local graduation requirements, including all applicable state testing. Students must pass the STAAR EOC exams in the areas of:

- Algebra I
- English I
- English II
- Biology
- US History

Students and parents are reminded that course selections are determined by student choice, need and teacher availability.

Schedule changes can have a significant impact on the calculation of the six weeks average. Schedule changes must be approved by the administrator or administrative designee. State law mandates 90% attendance in each class each semester. Therefore, schedule changes will be considered for the following reasons only:

- The student is a senior not scheduled in a course needed for graduation;
- The student has already earned credit for a course in which he or she is currently scheduled;
- The student does not have the prerequisite(s) for a class listed on his or her schedule;
- The student has previously failed the course under the same teacher;
- The student has been dismissed from a program for which approval must be granted for placement;
- The student does not have a full schedule;
- There is a data entry error (i.e. class listed twice, free period);
- Course-level change; or
- Other as approved by building administrator or designee.

The school cannot take the total responsibility for the proper choice of subjects for either students' graduation or college entrance. Students should carefully check the local graduation requirements and the catalog of the college of choice before choosing courses. Under no circumstances should students depend on any high school official to choose the correct courses for their future. The counselors, the administration, or other faculty members will be glad to assist students at any time, but students and parents must make the final choice. The parent or guardian and campus administrator must approve changes.