

# Curriculum

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## HOUSE BILL 3 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature

### **Flexible Graduation Requirements, Section 30 TEC, §28.025 (a), (b), (b-1), (b-3), (b-4)(b-5), (b-6), (b-7), (b-8), (b-10)**

The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted amendments to the graduation requirements on January 15, 2010. Changes to the graduation programs include the following:

#### **Fine arts**

- The fine arts requirement for students on the Minimum High School Program (MHSP) begins with students who enter Grade 9 in 2010-2011.
- The CTE Principles and Elements of Floral Design course may count for fine arts credit on all three graduation programs.

#### **Speech**

- Students must still complete one-half credit in speech on all three graduation programs.
- The CTE Professional Communications course may count for speech credit on all three graduation programs.

#### **Health**

- Students are no longer required to complete one-half credit in health on the MHSP or Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) for consistency with the Recommended High School Program (RHSP).

#### **Technology Applications**

- Students are no longer required to complete one credit of technology applications credit on the MHSP and DAP for consistency with the RHSP.

#### **Physical Education**

- Students are now required to complete only one credit in P.E. and are no longer required to complete the Foundations of Personal Fitness course as part of that credit.
- The following courses will be expanded to be one-half to one credit each: Foundations of Personal Fitness; Adventure/Outdoor Education; Aerobic Activities; and Team or Individual Sports. Students may satisfy the one credit of P.E. by taking any combination of these courses.

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- Students may earn credit for any of the P.E. courses listed above through participation in athletics, JROTC, or appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus for up to four credits toward graduation.
- Students may earn up to one credit for any of the P.E. courses listed above through participation in Drill Team, Marching Band, or Cheerleading activities. In order for a student to earn credit for one of these activities, the activity must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- Students may no longer substitute TEKS-based Dance or two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses for P.E. credit.
- Credit may not be earned for any P.E. course more than once and no more than four substitutions may be earned through any combination of allowable substitutions.

## **Mathematics**

The following CTE courses were added as options for students to satisfy the fourth mathematics credit on the RHSP:

- Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources if taken prior to Algebra II
- Engineering Mathematics
- Statistics and Risk Management

The following CTE courses were added as options for students to satisfy the fourth mathematics credit after successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II on the DAP:

- Engineering Mathematics
- Statistics and Risk Management

## **Science**

The following CTE courses were added as options for students to satisfy the fourth science credit after successful completion of a biology course, a chemistry course and a physics course on the RHSP and the DAP:

- Engineering Design and Problem Solving
- Advanced Animal Science
- Advanced Biotechnology
- Advanced Plant and Soil Science
- Food Science
- Forensic Science

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## **Middle School Fine Arts Requirement, Section 25 TEC, §28.002 (c-1)**

- The SBOE approved proposed rules regarding fine arts courses in middle school for first reading and filing authorization on January 15, 2010.
- The proposed rule would require school districts to ensure that, beginning with students who enter Grade 6 in the 2010-2011 school year, each student completes one TEKS-based fine arts course in Grade 6, Grade 7, or Grade 8.
- The official 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule is February 5 – March 7, 2010.
- Second reading and final adoption of the rule is scheduled for the March 2010, SBOE meeting.

### **Proposed Guidelines:**

- The length/duration (one semester or one full year) of the TEKS-based middle school fine arts course in art, music, or theatre will be a local school district decision.
- The teacher of record of the TEKS-based middle school fine arts course must be appropriately certified in the corresponding courses of art, music, or theatre.
- The statute pertaining to the middle school fine arts course requirement states that students must complete a fine arts course in grades 6, 7, or 8 as part of the school district's fine arts curriculum. Consequently, guidelines should consider whether the TEKS-based fine arts course in art, music, or theatre should be a middle school course (grades 6, 7, or 8) and not a high school (Level I-IV) course being offered in middle school for graduation.
- Students must successfully complete the TEKS-based fine arts course in art, music, or theatre to satisfy the requirement.

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## **Fine Arts Pilot Program, Section 30 TEC, §28.025 (b-9)**

According to data obtained from the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, only one Texas county meets the population requirements for the Fine Arts Pilot Program: Bexar County/San Antonio.

- Requests for applications will be sent to all school districts in Bexar County in early 2010.
- School districts will be selected in Spring 2010.
- School district planning will be conducted in Spring and Summer 2010.
- Program implementation will begin in Fall 2010.
- Program reporting will be completed in December 2010.

### **Proposed Guidelines:**

- School districts must apply to the Commissioner of Education for approval of a community-based fine arts program to satisfy the one credit of fine arts required for high school graduation under the Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement Programs.
- The fine arts program may be art, dance, music, or theatre and may be provided on- or off-campus.
- Students may not be dismissed from the regular school day to participate in the Fine Arts Pilot Program.
- The fine arts program must address all of the student expectations of the TEKS for art, dance, music, or theatre.
- The fine arts program must be approved by the school district board of trustees and superintendent to ensure that the program is of high quality and is well-supervised by appropriately trained staff.
- The school district must oversee and monitor student participation in and successful completion of the fine arts program.
- Successful completion of an approved fine arts program will be recorded as one credit in the corresponding course under art, dance, music, or theatre on the student's Academic Achievement Record.
- School districts will be required to provide a report to the Commissioner of Education that includes data pertaining to implementation of the Fine Arts Pilot Program. This information will be included in the report provided by TEA to the legislature regarding the Fine Arts Pilot Program (due no later than December 1, 2010).

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### **Student Success Initiative , Section 28 TEC, §28.021 (e)**

- Commissioner's Rules that will provide guidelines to districts based on best practices that may be used when considering factors for promotion will be filed with the Texas Register as proposed in March 2010.
- The Commissioner's Rules will be filed as adopted prior to the conclusion of this school year.
- Once the rules are filed as adopted, correspondence to districts that explain the guidelines will be posted and disseminated through agency listservs.
- Districts will have access to the new guidelines as they plan for the 2010-11 school year in the spring and summer.

### **Student Success Initiative , Section 29 TEC, §28.0211 (a-3)**

- Commissioner's Rules that will provide guidelines to districts based on research-based best practices and effective strategies that may be used in developing an accelerated instruction program will be filed with the Texas Register as proposed in March 2010.
- The Commissioner's Rules will be filed as adopted prior to the conclusion of this school year.
- Once the rules are filed as adopted, correspondence to districts that explain the guidelines will be posted and disseminated through agency listservs.
- Districts will have access to the new guidelines as they plan for the 2010-11 school year in the spring and summer.