



House Bill 5 Frequently Asked Questions

The 83rd Legislature passed House Bill 5 (HB 5) and was signed by the Governor on June 10. Below we've provided commonly asked questions regarding the new legislation.

End-of-Course Exams

1. Which end-of-course (EOC) tests are required for graduation t

- Pass one assessment (either reading or writing);
- Meet at least the minimum score on the other: and
- Achieve a combined scale score of 3750 (the phase-in 1 standard), which represents the sum of the scale scores needed to reach Level II for reading (1875) and Level II for writing (1875).

These three criteria would apply only to the current STAAR English I and II reading and writing assessments administered prior to the roll-out of the redesigned (combined) English I and II assessments in spring 2014. Under this proposal, students who have not met this requirement by that time would need to take and pass the redesigned assessment(s) to meet their English EOC testing requirements for graduation.

4. Will EOC exam results be included in students' grades?

No, EOC's will not be included as 15 percent of the course grade; HB 5 has eliminated that requirement.

5. What are the new graduation plans established under HB 5?

The Foundation High School Program , plus Endorsements, plus Distinguished Level of Achievement

The Foundation High School Program, plus Endorsement (Arlington ISD Graduate Standard)

The Foundation High School Program

The current Recommended High School Program that requires four courses in Math, English, Science and Social Studies ("4X4") for graduation is replaced by a 22-credit Foundation High School Program that allows students to earn endorsements in specific areas of study by completing four additional credits.

To earn a distinguished level of achievement, a student must complete the Foundation High School Program, plus an endorsement, and must complete Algebra II, plus a fourth Science.

6. When are the new graduation plans in effect?

Students who start 9th

7. What are the new endorsement areas under HB 5?

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HB 5 states that a school district shall ensure that each student “upon entering 9th grade” indicates **in writing** an endorsement that the student intends to earn.

10. May a student switch from one endorsement to another?

Yes, HB 5 requires that a school district permit a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated.

Counseling

15. When are students counseled on graduation