

Advanced Measures for the Distinguished Achievement Program

The DAP recognizes students who demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students. As a college preparatory system, Harmony Public Schools strongly encourages students to follow the DAP. In order to graduate with advanced measures under the DAP, a student must complete any combination of four of the following advanced measures:

1. Original research/project that is:
2. Judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or
3. Conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; and
4. Related to the required curriculum relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills;
5. Test data where a student receives:
6. A score of three or above on the College Board advanced placement examination;
7. A score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination; or
8. A score on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT score shall count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student; or
9. College academic courses, advanced technical credit courses, and dual credit courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher.

No substitutions are allowed in the Distinguished Achievement High School Program, except as specified by state Title 19, Chapter 74, Texas Administrative Code.

House Bill 5 and New Graduation Requirements

In the Spring of 2013 the 83rd Texas Legislature passed House Bill 5, which made substantial changes to the state's curriculum and graduation requirements, assessment program, and accountability system.

The new graduation plan mandated by House Bill 5 is called The Foundation High School Program which is intended to provide students with more flexibility. Students who are freshmen in 2015-16 will be the first class to fall under the graduation requirements in HB5. Students who are in grades 9th, 10th, or 11th in the 2015-2016 school year must be given a choice to graduate on the MHSP, RHSP, DAP, or Foundation High School Program.

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, each student, on entering ninth grade, must indicate in writing an endorsement that the

student intends to earn. Students are permitted at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated.

A student may graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement if, after the student's sophomore year:

- (1) the student and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and
- (2) the student's parent or person standing in parental relation files with a school counselor written permission allowing the student to graduate under the foundation high school program without earning an endorsement

House Bill 5 requires students to pass five State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of-course exams to meet the new graduation requirements: Algebra I, English I (combined reading/writing), English II (combined reading/writing), Biology and U.S. History.

Foundation High School Program (22 credits)

Foundation High School Program (FHSP) includes the following requirements:

- ELA – 4 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Algebra II not required
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Foreign Language – 2 credits
- Fine Arts – 1 credit
- Physical Education – 1 credit
- 5 Elective Credits

Foundation High School Program with Endorsements (26 Credits)

Foundation High School Program (FHSP) includes the following requirements:

Foundation Plan plus the following

- 4th Math Course
- 4th Science Course
- Endorsement Area Coursework (see endorsements section)

Distinguished Level of Achievement (26 Credits)

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing:

- Foundation Plan
- A total of four credits in mathematics, which must include Algebra II
- A total of four credits in science
- The remaining curriculum requirements

- The curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement

A student must earn the distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission.

Graduation Plan Chart

Discipline	Foundation Only	Foundation + Endorsements	Distinguished Level of Achievement
English Language Arts	ELA I ELA II ELA III Advanced English (4 credits)	ELA I ELA II ELA III Advanced English (4 credits)	ELA I ELA II ELA III Advanced English (4 credits)
Mathematics	Algebra I Geometry Advanced Math (3 credits)	Algebra I Geometry Advanced Math Advanced Math (4 credits)	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Advanced Math (4 credits)
Science	Biology Advanced Science Advanced Science (3 credits)	Biology Advanced Science Advanced Science Advanced Science (4 credits)	Biology Advanced Science Advanced Science Advanced Science (4 credits)
Social Studies	US History Government/Economics World Geo. or World Hist. (3 credits)	US History Government/Economics World Geo. or World Hist. (3 credits)	US History Government/Economics World Geo. or World Hist. (3 credits)
LOTE (Languages Other Than English)	LOTE or Computer Programing (2 credits)	LOTE or Computer Programing (2 credits)	LOTE or Computer Programing (2 credits)
Physical Education	Physical Education (1 credit)	Physical Education (1 credit)	Physical Education (1 credit)
Fine Arts	Fine Arts (1 credit)	Fine Arts (1 credit)	Fine Arts (1 credit)
Electives	(5 credits)	(7 credits)	(7 credits)
Total	22 credits	26 credits	26 credits

Performance Acknowledgements

Performance Acknowledgements may be earned in one or more of the following categories:

- AP test score of 3 or above;
- IB test score of 4 or above (transfer students only; IB is not available in HPS);
- Qualifying PSAT score based on the 11th grade test;
- SAT combined critical reading and math score of 1250 or above;
- ACT composite score of 28 or above;
- Completion of a minimum of 12 hours dual credit college courses with final grades of A or B (3.0 GPA or above);
- Bilingualism and biliteracy; and
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

