Changes for Middle School Students

Students will take the following grade-level STAAR tests in Reading, Math, Writing, Science and Social Studies
Grade 7: Reading, Math and Writing
Grade 8: Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies

Students who take Algebra I as an eighth-grader are ONLY required to take the Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) exam this year. Middle school students taking Algebra I will not be required to take the grade-level STAAR math assessment in addition to the Algebra I EOC.

Changes for High School Students

Entering ninth-graders in 2014-2015 will enter under the new 26-credit plan with an Endorsement.

STEM, Business and Industry, Arts and Humanities, Public Services, and Multi-Disciplinary endorsements will help create a personalized learning plan in line with the student’s career interests and goals.

Students enrolled in high school prior to the 2014-15 school year can elect to graduate under the new Foundation Plan if that decision is made during the 2014-15 school year.

What Happens Next?

STEP 1
Parent information sessions will be scheduled.

STEP 2
Counselors will review Educational Plans of Study and endorsement selection with students.

STEP 3
Educational Plan of Study will be sent home for parental input and approval.

Where Can I Get More Help?

To learn more about graduation requirements and how Aldine ISD can help your child create a path to college and career success, contact your student’s assigned campus counselor.
This year’s eighth-graders – the Class of 2018 – will be the first to experience a whole new path to graduation under a new law – House Bill 5 – designed to personalize learning. Students will identify career fields that interest them, and they will take courses that will prepare them for success in college and the job market.

**A New Path to Graduation**

All students must complete the same Foundation High School Program before they can earn any endorsements. The Foundation Program accounts for 22 credits.

As the student completes the Foundation Program, he or she simultaneously continues with his or her selected endorsement.

The endorsements cover five career-oriented areas to help the student to better prepare for college and the job market. Endorsements also account for an additional 4 credits.

To earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement, the student must successfully complete Algebra II. To qualify for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university, a student must earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement and be in the top 10% of his/her graduating class.

How Can You Help Your Child?

Encourage your child to take challenging classes, such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate, and dual credit courses.

Make attendance a top priority by setting a daily routine and scheduling appointments outside of school hours.

Familiarize yourself with your child’s graduation plan requirements and monitor his/her progress.

---

### How Will Students Select an Endorsement?

During the Exploring Careers course, each eighth grade student will complete an educational plan of study (4-year plan) based on his/her career assessment. The educational plan of study indicates which endorsement the student has chosen to pursue.

Students may earn more than one endorsement.

The educational plan of study will be sent home for parental input and approval.

---

### How Can You Help Your Child?

- Encourage your child to take challenging classes, such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate, and dual credit courses.
- Make attendance a top priority by setting a daily routine and scheduling appointments outside of school hours.
- Familiarize yourself with your child’s graduation plan requirements and monitor his/her progress.

---

### How Will Students Select an Endorsement?

**Endorsements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.T.E.M.</th>
<th>Business and Industry</th>
<th>Arts and Humanities</th>
<th>Public Services</th>
<th>Multi-Disciplinary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **English**
  - English Language Arts I, II, III, Advanced English
- **Mathematics**
  - Algebra I, Geometry, Advanced Math

**Social Studies**

- World Geography, World History*, US History, Government & Economics

**Science**

- Biology, Integrated Physics & Chemistry or Advanced Science, additional Science Course

**Foreign Language**

- 2 Foreign Language

**Physical Education**

- 1 Physical Education

**Fine Arts**

- 1 Fine Arts

**Professional Communications**

- 0.5 Professional Communications*

**Health**

- 0.5 Health*

**Electives**

- 3 Electives

* Aldine ISD’s local requirements

---

### How Will Students Select an Endorsement?

**ENDORSEMENTS**

- **S.T.E.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
  - Elective
  - Math or Adv. Math
  - Science or Adv. Science

- **Business and Industry**
  - Elective
  - Math or Adv. Math
  - Science or Adv. Science

- **Arts and Humanities**
  - Elective
  - Math or Adv. Math
  - Science or Adv. Science

- **Public Services**
  - Elective
  - Math or Adv. Math
  - Science or Adv. Science

- **Multi-Disciplinary**
  - Elective
  - Math or Adv. Math
  - Science or Adv. Science

---

### How Will Students Select an Endorsement?

**DISTINGUISHED**

- **Algebra II**

(Top 10% Automatic Admission to Texas Public Colleges and Universities)