## **GRADUATION**

Authorities: 34 CFR Part 300; Texas Education Code; Texas Family Code; 19 TAC Chapters 74, 89, and 101; House Bill 3

## **Additional Resources**

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
Р	Except as specifically provided as follows, graduation with a regular high school diploma terminates a child's eligibility for special education services and:	89.1035(a) 89.1070(a) 300.102(a)(3)
Р	<ul> <li>Requires compliance with the <u>SUMMARY OF</u> <u>PERFORMANCE</u> framework; and</li> </ul>	
Р	<ul> <li>Constitutes a change of placement and requires compliance with the <u>PRIOR</u> <u>WRITTEN</u> <u>NOTICE</u> framework.</li> </ul>	
Р	Employability and self-help skills are those skills directly related to the preparation of children for employment, including general skills necessary to obtain or retain employment.	<del>89.1070(j)</del> <u>89.1070(i)</u>
Р	Modified curriculum and modified content refer to any reduction of the amount or complexity of the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.	<del>89.1070(I)</del> <u>89.1070(k)</u>
Р	Substitutions that are specifically authorized in statute or rule must not be considered modified curriculum or modified content.	<del>89.1070(l)</del> <u>89.1070(k)</u>
	FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	
Р	A child entering grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter	74.12 89.1070(b)(1)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	who receives special education services may graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child meets the following criteria:	101.3023 TEC 28.025(c)(1) TEC 39.025
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the required state standards or local education agency (LEA) standards if they are greater;</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(1)
D	<ul> <li>Satisfactorily completes the credit requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program; and</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(1)
D	Achieves satisfactory performance on the required state assessments, unless the child's ADMISSION, REVIEW, AND DISMISSAL COMMITTEE has determined that satisfactory performance on the required state assessments is not necessary for graduationend-of-course assessment instruments.	74.1025(n) 89.1070(b)(1) 101.3023(a) TEC 39.025(a-4)
Р	A child entering grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter who receives special education services may also graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child meets the following criteria:	89.1070(b <del>)(2</del> ) 101.3023 TEC 39.025 TEC 28.025(c)(2) 74.12
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the required state standards or LEA standards if they are greater;</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)
D	<ul> <li>Satisfactorily completes the credit requirements for graduation under the</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	Foundation High School Program-through courses, one or more of which contain modified curriculum that is aligned to the standards applicable to general education; ; but	
D	Achieves satisfactory     performance on the required     state assessments, unless     the The child'sadmission,     review, and dismissal (ARD)     committeehas determined     that satisfactory     performance on the required     state assessmentsend-of-     course assessment     instruments is not necessary     for graduation; and.	89.1070(b)(2) <del>101.3023(a)</del> <del>74.1025(n)</del> <del>TEC 39.025(a-4)</del>
Р	A child entering grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter who receives special education services may also graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child meets the following criteria:	74.12 89.1070(b) 101.3023 TEC 28.025(c)(2) TEC 39.025
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the required state standards or LEA standards if they are greater;</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2) 89.1070(b)(3)
D	Satisfactorily completes the credit requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program through courses, one or more of which contain modified curriculum that is aligned to the standards applicable to general education;	8 <del>9.1070(b)(2)</del> 89.1070(b)(3)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
D	<ul> <li>Achieves satisfactory performance on the required end-of-course assessment instruments, unless the child's ARD committee has determined that satisfactory performance on the required end-of-course assessment instruments is not necessary for graduation; and</li> </ul>	74.1025(n)  89.1070(b)(2) 89.1070(b)(3) 101.3023(a) TEC 39.025(a-4)
D	<ul> <li>Successfully completes the individualized education program (IEP) and meets one of the following conditions:</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(b)(2)</del> 89.1070(b)(3)
D	consistent with the IEP, has obtained full-time employment, based on the child's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to mastering sufficient self-help skills to enable the child to maintain the employment without direct and ongoing educational support of the LEA;	89.1070(b)(2)(A)89.1070(b)(3)(A)
D	<ul> <li>Consistent with the IEP, has demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that do not require direct ongoing educational support of the LEA;</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(B) 89.1070(b)(3)(B)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
D	<ul> <li>Has access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education or employment or educational options for which the child has been prepared by the academic program; or</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(C)
D	<ul> <li>No longer meets age eligibility requirements.</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(D) 89.1070(b)(3)(D) 89.1035
Р	A child receiving special education services may earn an endorsement by:	74.12 74.13 89.1070(c) TEC 28.025(c-7)
D	<ul> <li>SuccessfullySatisfactorily completing, with or without modification of the curriculum:</li> </ul>	89.1070(c)(1) TEC 28.025(c-7)(1)
D	<ul> <li>The curriculum requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program; and</li> </ul>	89.1070(c)(1) TEC 28.025(c-7)(1)(A) TEC 28.025(a)
D	<ul> <li>The additional         <ul> <li>endorsement</li> <li>curriculumcredit</li> <li>requirements in</li> <li>mathematics,</li> <li>science, and elective</li> <li>courses; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	89.1070(c)(1) TEC 28.025(c-7)(1)(B) TEC 28.025(c-2)
D	<u>Satisfactorily</u> completing <del>all</del> curriculumthe courses	89.1070(c)(2) TEC 28.025(c-7)(2)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	requirements for that endorsement:	
D	<ul> <li>Without modification         of the curriculum for         those courses; or</li> </ul>	89.1070(c)(2) TEC 28.025(c-7)(2)(A)
D	<ul> <li>With modification of the curriculum for those courses, provided that the curriculum as modified, is sufficiently rigorous as determined by the child's ARD committee.</li> </ul>	89.1070(c)(2) TEC 28.025(c-7)(2)(B)
D	The ARD committee of a child in a special education program will determine whether the child is required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course assessment instrument to earn an endorsement on the child's transcript.	89.1070(c)(3) TEC 28.025(c-8)
D	A child who is classified in grade 11 or 12 who has taken each of the required state assessments but failed to achieve satisfactory performance on no more than two of the assessments is eligible to receive an endorsement if the child meets the other requirements for an endorsement.	89.1070(d)
	TRANSITION TO THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WHO ENTERED GRADE 9 BEFORE THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR	
Р	A child receiving special education services who entered grade 9	74.1021(a)(1)

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	before the 2014-15 school year may graduate and be awarded a high school diploma under the Foundation High School Program, if the child's ARD committee determines that the child should take courses under that program and the child satisfies the requirements of that program.	89.1070(f) 89.1070(e) TEC 28.025(c)(1)
Р	A child transitioning to the Foundation High School Program may earn an endorsement if the child meets the requirements for an endorsement.	89.1070(c)-(d) 89.1070(f) 89.1070(e)
D	A child transitioning to the Foundation High School Program who is classified in grade 11 or 12 who has taken each of the required state assessments but failed to achieve satisfactory performance on no more than two of the assessments may graduate if the child has satisfied all other applicable graduation requirements.	89.1070(f) 89.1070(e) 101.3022(f)(1)
	SUBSTITUTIONS UNDER THE FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	
D	A child, who due to a disability, is unable to complete two credits in the same language in a language-other-than-English (LOTE), may substitute a combination of two credits from English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies or two credits in career and technical education, technology applications, or other academic electives for the LOTE credit requirements if the ARD committee determines that the child is unable to complete the LOTE credit requirements.	74.12(b)(5)(D)(i) TEC 28.025(b-14)(1)
D	A child who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may substitute one credit in English language arts,	74.12(b)(6)(G)(i) TEC 28.025(b-11)

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	mathematics, science, social studies, a locally-designed course that meets the state criteria for substitution under state law, or one academic credit elective for the physical education (PE) credit requirement if the ARD committee determines that the child is unable to participate in physical activity.	
Р	A credit allowed to be substituted for LOTE or PE credit may not be used to satisfy any other graduation credit requirement.	TEC 28.025(b-11) TEC 28.025(b-14)
	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT, RECOMMENDED, AND MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS	
Р	A child receiving special education services who entered grade 9 before the 2014-15 school year may graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child:	74.1021 89.1070(g) 89.1070(f) 101.3023 TEC 28.025(c)(1) TEC 39.025
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the state standards or LEA standards if they are greater;</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(1)</del> 89.1070(f)(1)
D	<ul> <li>Satisfactorily completes credit requirements for graduation, under the recommended or distinguished achievement high school programs; and</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(1)</del> 89.1070(f)(1)
D	<ul> <li>Achieves satisfactory performance on the required state assessments.</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(1)</del> 89.1070(f)(1)
D	A child who is classified in grade 11 or 12 who has taken each of the required state assessments but failed to achieve satisfactory	89.1070(g)(2) 89.1070(f)(2) 101.3022(f)(1)

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	performance on no more than two of the assessments is eligible to graduate under the recommended or distinguished achievement high school program if the child meets all other applicable graduation requirements.	
Р	A child receiving special education services who entered grade 9 before the 2014-15 school year may also graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child:	89.1070(g)(3) 89.1070(f)(3) 74.1021 101.3023 TEC 39.025 TEC 28.025(c)(1)
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the state standards or LEA standards if they are greater;</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(3)</del> 89.1070(f)(3)
D	<ul> <li>Satisfactorily completes credit requirements for graduation, under the minimum high school program; and</li> </ul>	89.1070(g)(3)89.1070(f)(3)
D	<ul> <li>Participates in or satisfactorily performs on the required state assessments, as determined by the ARD committee.</li> </ul>	89.1070(g)(3)89.1070(f)(3) 74.1025(n) 101.3023(a) TEC 39.025(a-4)
Р	A child receiving special education services who entered grade 9 before the 2014-15 school year may also graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the child:	89.1070(g)(4)89.1070(f)(4) 101.3023 TEC 28.025(c)(2) TEC 39.025
D	<ul> <li>Demonstrates mastery of the state standards or LEA standards if they are greater through courses, one or more of which contain modified content that is</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(4)</del> 89.1070(f)(4)

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	aligned to the standards required under the minimum high school program;	
D	<ul> <li>Satisfactorily completes credit requirements under the minimum high school program;</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(4)</del> 89.1070(f)(4)
D	<ul> <li>Participates in or satisfactorily performs on the required state assessments, as determined by the ARD committee; and</li> </ul>	89.1070(g)(4)89.1070(f)(4)  74.1025(n)  101.3023(a) TEC 39.025(a-4)
D	<ul> <li>Successfully completes the IEP and meets one of the following conditions:</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(4)</del> 89.1070(f)(4)
D	consistent with the IEP, has obtained full-time employment, based on the child's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to mastering sufficient self-help skills to enable the child to maintain the employment without direct and ongoing educational support of the LEA;	<del>89.1070(g)(4)</del> 89.1070(f)(4)
D	<ul> <li>Consistent with the IEP, has demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills that do not require</li> </ul>	<del>89.1070(g)(4)(B)</del> 89.1070(f)(4)(B)

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	direct ongoing educational support of the LEA;	
D	<ul> <li>Has access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education or employment or educational options for which the child has been prepared by the academic program; or</li> </ul>	89.1070(g)(4)(C)89.1070(f)(4)(C)
D	<ul> <li>No longer meets age eligibility requirements.</li> </ul>	89.1070(g)(4)(D) 89.1070(f)(4)(D) 89.1035
	CHILDREN ELIGIBLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER GRADUATING	
Р	A child who meets the <u>AGE RANGE</u> <u>FOR ELIGIBILITY</u> may return to school as long as the child was awarded a diploma that met the following conditions:	89.1035 (a)  89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C) 89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)  89.1070(k) 89.1070(j)
Р	The child was required to successfully complete the child's IEP; and	89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C) 89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)  89.1070(k) 89.1070(j)
Р	<ul> <li>The child was required to:</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C) 89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
		<del>89.1070(k)</del> 89.1070(j)
Р	<ul> <li>Obtain full-time employment, based on the child's abilities and local employment opportunities, in addition to mastering sufficient self-help skills to enable the child to maintain the employment without direct and ongoing educational support of the LEA;</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C) 89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)  89.1070(k) 89.1070(j)
Р	<ul> <li>Demonstrate mastery         of specific         employability skills         and self-help skills         that do not require         direct ongoing         educational support         of the LEA; or</li> </ul>	89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C)  89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C)  89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)  89.1070(k)  89.1070(j)
Р	o Have access to services that were not within the legal responsibility of public education or employment or educational options for which the child has been prepared by the academic program.	89.1070(b)(2)(A)-(C) 89.1070(b)(3)(A)-(C) 89.1070(f)(4)(A)-(C)  89.1070(k) 89.1070(j)
Р	The ARD committee must determine the needed educational services upon the request of the child or parent to resume services.	<del>89.1070(k)</del> 89.1070(j)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES	
Р	The LEA must issue a certificate of attendance to the child who has completed four years of high school but has not completed the IEP.	TEC 28.025(f)
Р	The LEA must allow the child who receives a certificate of attendance to participate in a graduation ceremony with children receiving high school diplomas.	TEC 28.025(f)
Р	The child may participate in only one graduation ceremony to receive a certificate of attendance.	TEC 28.025(f)
Р	The child who receives a certificate of attendance is not prevented from receiving a diploma if the child completes the IEP.	TEC 28.025(f)
	FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REQUIREMENT	
Р	Beginning with children enrolled in grade 12 during the 2021-22 school year:	HB 3 Sec. 5.001(c)(2019)
Р	Before graduating from high school, each child must complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TAFSA).	TEC 28.0256(a)
Р	<ul> <li>The child is not required to submit the FAFSA or the TAFSA if:</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(b)
D	<ul> <li>The child's parent or other person standing in parental relation submits a signed form indicating that the parent or other person authorizes the</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(b)(1)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	child to decline to complete and submit the financial aid application;	
D	o The child signs and submits the form on the child's own behalf if the child is 18 years of age or older or the child's disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes; or	TEC 28.0256(b)(2) TX Family Code Ch. 31
D	<ul> <li>A school counselor authorizes the child to decline to complete and submit the financial aid application for good cause, as determined by the school counselor.</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(b)(3)
D	<ul> <li>The LEA must adopt a form to be used for purposes of documenting the waiver to submit the FAFSA or TASFA, and the form must be:</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(c)
D	<ul> <li>Approved by the Texas Education Agency; and</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(c)(1)
D	<ul> <li>Made available in English, Spanish, and any other language spoken by a majority of the children enrolled in a bilingual education or special</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(c)(2)

DOCUMENT/ PRACTICE	FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS	CITATIONS
	language program in the district or school.	
D	<ul> <li>If a school counselor notifies an LEA whether a child has complied with the financial aid application requirement, the school counselor may only indicate whether the child has complied with this section and may not indicate the manner in which the child complied.</li> </ul>	TEC 28.0256(d)

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