

**THE DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT PLAN** consists of: 4 English credits, 3 mathematics credits (must include Algebra II), 4 social studies credits, 3 advanced science credits, 2 foreign language credits, 1 credit each of physical education and fine arts, ½ health credit and 3½ credits of electives, plus one 4-credit Endorsement (pending Board approval as of March 8, 2014). Students graduating under this plan are eligible to be considered for automatic admission to state colleges and universities through the Top Ten Percent Plan.

**ENDORSEMENTS:** All incoming ninth-graders must select an endorsement based on their career interests and goals to complete the required credits for graduation.

## The five Endorsements you may choose from are:



### STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

This path includes courses directly related to science, including environment science; technology, including computer science; engineering; and advanced mathematics.



### Business and Industry

This path includes accounting, architecture, automotive technology, communications, construction, finance, graphic design, information technology, marketing, welding, and much more.



### Arts and Humanities

This path includes cultural studies, English literature, fine arts, history, political science, and world languages.



### Public Services

This path includes education and training, health sciences and occupations, law enforcement and government services, human services, and JROTC.



### Multidisciplinary Studies

This path includes courses selected from the curriculum of each Endorsement area.

**PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Students may earn up to FIVE acknowledgments for outstanding performance, which will be displayed on diplomas and transcripts:

- Dual credit courses
- Bilingualism and Biteracy
- AP and IB exams
- PSAT/SAT/ACT and/or Act-Plan exams
- Business and industry certifications and/or licenses

HISD has magnet programs, early college high schools, college preparatory schools, Futures Academies, and many other options to help you reach your education goals. HISD will provide transportation to some schools if you apply and are accepted. Certain grade and test score criteria do apply.

For questions regarding Endorsements, required courses, or your educational path, please visit your guidance counselor.

Learn more at PLAN YOUR PATH: [www.HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath](http://www.HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath)

#GreatAllOver



If you don't have a destination, how do you know when you're there? Of course, it's impossible to know exactly where you will end up, but it's not too soon to start planning your educational path. To make sure that you get on the right road, we have created this step-by-step guide for students of all ages. If you are an eighth-grader, this guide will explain your high school options and ensure that you fulfill all the requirements for graduation followed by college and a career.

THIS STEP-BY-STEP  
GUIDE WILL HELP  
YOU PLAN YOUR PATH  
TO HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Talk to your parents about their job and career path

- Participate in a Career Fair
- Visit a local college and/or university

**GRADE 3:**  
Strive for advanced academic performance in Math and Reading STAAR tests

**GRADE 4:**  
Strive for advanced academic performance in Math and Reading STAAR tests

Research possible HISD middle schools you might want to attend

Research possible colleges and careers  
• Attend college fairs and open houses

### GRADE 8

- Pick up college and career brochures
- Take Readstep
- Pass Mathematics, Reading, Science and Social Studies STAAR tests
- Take TECH literacy assessment (T.L.A.)

- Take Career Key Interest Inventory
- Investigate career websites such as Virtual Job Shadow

Art Car

Meet with your parents and counselor to develop your Personal Graduation Plan

**GRADE 5:**  
Strive for advanced academic performance in Math and Reading STAAR tests

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**GRADE 6:**  
Strive for advanced academic performance in Math and Reading STAAR tests

- Register for Naviance
- take a personality test
  - search for college programs based on your results

Research possible HISD high schools you might want to attend

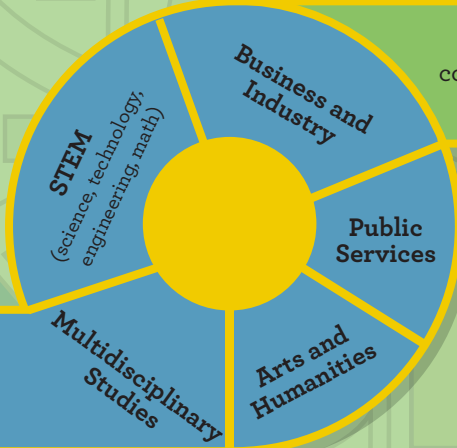
**GRADE 7:**  
Strive for advanced academic performance in Math and Reading STAAR tests

Meet with your middle school counselor to discuss what you have learned in your research

Pick your Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan with an Endorsement (see back for more details)

Apply to high schools based on your Endorsement and interests

# PLAN YOUR PATH



### HIGH SCHOOL

### NINTH GRADE:

Enroll in your new high school

- Pick your Endorsement
- Select elective classes
- Confirm & Sign your PGP
- Pass STAAR EOC exams
- Take PSAT exam
- Plan for performance acknowledgement

### TENTH GRADE:

- Take PSAT exam
- Pass STAAR EOC exams
- Visit colleges/universities
- Visit college & career fairs
- Go to the When I Grow Up expo

### JUNIOR YEAR:

- Pass STAAR EOC tests (if applies)
- Prepare for industry certification/license exams
- Take SAT/ACT
- Take PSAT

Meet with your college access coordinator about options after high school

### SENIOR YEAR:

- Apply to at least three colleges
- Complete Industry Certifications/Licenses
- Apply for FAFSA/TASFA (federal and state financial aid) and scholarships

Graduate with an Endorsement and the Distinguished Level of Achievement