ATTACHMENT III
Text of Proposed New 19 TAC

Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter G. Graduation Requirements, Beginning with School Year 2012-2013

§74.71. High School Graduation Requirements.

(a) Graduates of each high school program are awarded the same type of diploma. The transcript or academic achievement record (AAR), rather than the diploma, records individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed and displays appropriate graduation seals.

(b) All credit for graduation must be earned no later than Grade 12.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter shall enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements for the recommended high school program specified in §74.73 of this title (relating to Recommended High School Program) or the advanced program specified in §74.74 of this title (relating to Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program) unless the student, the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator agree in writing signed by each party that the student should be permitted to take courses under the minimum high school program specified in §74.72 of this title (relating to Minimum High School Program) and the student:

(1) is at least 16 years of age;

(2) has completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum under the Texas Education Code, §28.002(a)(1); or

(3) has failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times as determined by the school district.

(d) If an admission, review, and dismissal committee makes decisions that place a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the minimum high school program.

(e) To receive a high school diploma, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter must complete the following:

(1) in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, requirements of the minimum high school program specified in §74.72 of this title, the recommended high school program specified in §74.73 of this title, or the distinguished achievement high school program specified in §74.74 of this title; and

(2) testing requirements for graduation as specified in Chapter 101 of this title (relating to Assessment).

(f) A maximum of three credits of reading (selected from Reading I, II, or III) may be offered by districts for state graduation elective credit for identified students under the following conditions.

(1) The school district board of trustees shall adopt policies to identify students in need of additional reading instruction.

(2) District procedures shall include assessment of individual student needs, ongoing evaluation of each student's progress, and monitoring of instructional activities to ensure that student needs are addressed.

(g) An out-of-state or out-of-country transfer student (including foreign exchange students) or a transfer student from a Texas nonpublic school is eligible to receive a Texas diploma, but must complete all requirements of this section to satisfy state graduation requirements. Any course credit required in this section that is not completed by the student before he or she enrolls in a Texas school district may be satisfied through the provisions of §74.23 of this title (relating to Correspondence Courses and Distance

Learning) and §74.24 of this title (relating to Credit by Examination) or by completing the course or courses according to the provisions of §74.26 of this title (relating to Award of Credit).

(h) Elective credits in all three graduation programs may be selected from the following:

(1) high school courses not required for graduation that are listed in the following chapters of this title:

(A) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading);

(B) Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics);

(C) Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science);

(D) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies);

(E) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English);

(F) Chapter 115 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health Education);

(G) Chapter 116 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Physical Education);

(H) Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts);

(I) Chapter 126 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications);

(J) Chapter 127 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development); and

(K) Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education);

(2) state-approved innovative courses as specified in §74.27 of this title (relating to Innovative Courses and Programs);

(3) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)--one to four credits; and

(4) Driver Education--one-half credit.

(i) College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted as appropriate for required courses in all three high school graduation programs. College Board advanced placement and International Baccalaureate courses may be used as electives in all three high school graduation programs.

(j) Courses offered for dual credit in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education that provide advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than, the essential knowledge and skills for the equivalent high school course required for graduation may satisfy graduation requirements in the foundation curriculum and for languages other than English in all three high school graduation programs.

(k) A student may not be enrolled in a course that has a required prerequisite unless:

(1) the student has completed the prerequisite course(s);

(2) the student has demonstrated equivalent knowledge as determined by the school district; or

(3) the student was already enrolled in the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school and transferred to a Texas public school prior to successfully completing the course.

(l) A district may award credit for a course a student completed without having met the prerequisites if the student completed the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school where there was not a prerequisite.

§74.72. Minimum High School Program.

(a) Credits. A student must earn at least 22 credits to complete the Minimum High School Program.

(b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.

(1) English language arts--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of English I, II, and III. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.) The final credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:

(A) English IV;

(B) Research and Technical Writing;

(C) Creative Writing;

(D) Practical Writing Skills;

(E) Literary Genres;

(F) Business English;

(G) Journalism;

(H) Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition; and

(I) AP English Literature and Composition.

(2) Mathematics--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of Algebra I and Geometry.

(A) The final credit may be Algebra II.

(B) The final credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:

(i) Precalculus;

(ii) Mathematical Models with Applications;

(iii) Independent Study in Mathematics;

(iv) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;

(v) AP Statistics;

(vi) AP Calculus AB;

(vii) AP Calculus BC;

(viii) AP Computer Science;

(ix) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;

(x) IB Mathematics Standard Level;

(xi) IB Mathematics Higher Level;

(xii) IB Further Mathematics Standard Level;

(xiii) Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources;

(xiv) Engineering Mathematics; and

(xv) Statistics and Risk Management.

(3) Science--two credits. The credits must consist of Biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). A student may substitute a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), or a physics credit (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics) and then must use the second of these two courses as the academic elective credit identified in subsection (b)(5) of this section.

(4) Social studies--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of United States History Studies Since 1877 (one credit), United States Government (one-half credit), and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit). The final credit may be selected from the following courses:

(A) World History Studies; and

(B) World Geography Studies.

(5) Academic elective--one credit. The credit must be selected from World History Studies, World Geography Studies, or science course(s) approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) for science credit as found in Chapter 112 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science). If a student elects to replace IPC with either Chemistry or Physics as described in subsection (b)(3) of this section, the academic elective must be the other of these two science courses. A student may satisfy the academic elective credit through a combination of two half credits from science courses only if neither is a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment.

(6) Physical education--one credit.

(A) The required credit may be selected from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:

(i) Foundations of Personal Fitness;

(ii) Adventure/Outdoor Education;

(iii) Aerobic Activities; and

(iv) Team or Individual Sports.

(B) In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in the following activities:

(i) Athletics;

(ii) JROTC; and

(iii) appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. Such approval may be granted under the following conditions.

(I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.

(II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least

five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

(C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:

(i) Drill Team;

(ii) Marching Band; and

(iii) Cheerleading.

(D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

(E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.

(F) A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

(i) the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee if the student receives special education services under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 29, Subchapter A;

(ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, §794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

(iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.

(7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:

(A) Communication Applications; and

(B) Professional Communications.

(8) Fine arts--one credit. The credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:

(A) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(B) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(C) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(D) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(E) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;

(F) Digital Art and Animation; and

(G) 3-D Modeling and Animation.

(c) Elective courses--six and one-half credits. The credits must be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.71(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements). Two half credits may be

combined to satisfy one elective credit only if neither half credit is for a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment.

(d) Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Minimum High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.

§74.73. Recommended High School Program.

(a) Credits. A student must earn at least 26 credits to complete the Recommended High School Program.

(b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

(1) English language arts--four credits. The credits must consist of English I, II, III, and IV. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.)

(2) Mathematics--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.

(A) The additional credit may be Mathematical Models with Applications and must be successfully completed prior to Algebra II.

(B) The fourth credit may be selected from the following courses:

(i) Precalculus;

(ii) Independent Study in Mathematics;

(iii) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;

(iv) Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics;

(v) AP Calculus AB;

(vi) AP Calculus BC;

(vii) AP Computer Science;

(viii) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;

(ix) IB Mathematics Standard Level;

(x) IB Mathematics Higher Level;

(xi) IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; and

(xii) pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.025(b-5), a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses approved under this clause.

(C) The additional credit may be selected from the following courses and may be taken after the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II:

(i) Engineering Mathematics;

(ii) Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; and

(iii) Statistics and Risk Management.

(3) Science--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of a biology credit (Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology), a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), and a physics credit (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics).

(A) The additional credit may be Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) and must be successfully completed prior to chemistry and physics.

(B) The fourth credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses:

(i) Aquatic Science;

(ii) Astronomy;

(iii) Earth and Space Science;

(iv) Environmental Systems;

(v) AP Biology;

(vi) AP Chemistry;

(vii) AP Physics B;

(viii) AP Physics C;

(ix) AP Environmental Science;

(x) IB Biology;

(xi) IB Chemistry;

(xii) IB Physics;

(xiii) IB Environmental Systems; and

(xiv) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The TEA shall maintain a current list of courses approved under this clause.

(C) The additional credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses and may be taken after the successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with physics:

(i) Scientific Research and Design;

(ii) Anatomy and Physiology;

(iii) Engineering Design and Problem Solving;

(iv) Medical Microbiology;

(v) Pathophysiology;

(vi) Advanced Animal Science;

(vii) Advanced Biotechnology;

(viii) Advanced Plant and Soil Science;

(ix) Food Science; and

(x) Forensic Science.

(4) Social studies--four credits. The credits must consist of World History Studies (one credit), World Geography Studies (one credit), United States History Studies Since 1877 (one credit), United States Government (one-half credit), and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit).

(5) Languages other than English--two credits. The credits must consist of any two levels in the same language.

(6) Physical education--one credit.

(A) The required credit may be selected from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:

(i) Foundations of Personal Fitness;

(ii) Adventure/Outdoor Education;

(iii) Aerobic Activities; and

(iv) Team or Individual Sports.

(B) In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in the following activities:

(i) Athletics;

(ii) JROTC; and

(iii) appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. Such approval may be granted under the following conditions.

(I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.

(II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

(C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:

(i) Drill Team;

(ii) Marching Band; and

(iii) Cheerleading.

(D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

(E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.

(F) If a student is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a physical education course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner, a

modification to a physical education course does not prohibit the student from earning a Recommended High School Program diploma. A student with a physical limitation must still demonstrate proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills in a physical education course that do not require physical activity.

(G) A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

(i) the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee if the student receives special education services under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 29, Subchapter A;

(ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, §794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

(iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.

(7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:

(A) Communication Applications; and

(B) Professional Communications.

(8) Fine arts--one credit. The credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:

(A) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(B) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(C) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(D) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(E) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;

(F) Digital Art and Animation; and

(G) 3-D Modeling and Animation.

(c) Elective courses--five and one-half credits. The credits may be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.71(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements). All students who wish to complete the Recommended High School Program are encouraged to study each of the four foundation curriculum areas (English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) every year in high school. Two half credits may be combined to satisfy one elective credit only if neither half credit is for a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment.

(d) Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Recommended High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.

§74.74. Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program.

(a) Credits. A student must earn at least 26 credits to complete the Distinguished Achievement High School Program.

(b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following:

(1) English language arts--four credits. The credits must consist of English I, II, III, and IV. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.)

(2) Mathematics--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.

(A) The fourth credit may be selected from the following courses after successful completion of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry:

(i) Precalculus;

(ii) Independent Study in Mathematics;

(iii) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;

(iv) Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics;

(v) AP Calculus AB;

(vi) AP Calculus BC;

(vii) AP Computer Science;

(viii) International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies Standard Level;

(ix) IB Mathematics Standard Level;

(x) IB Mathematics Higher Level;

(xi) IB Further Mathematics Standard Level; and

(xii) pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.025(b-5), a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses approved under this clause.

(B) The additional credit may be selected from the following courses and may be taken after the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II:

(i) Engineering Mathematics; and

(ii) Statistics and Risk Management.

(3) Science--four credits. Three of the credits must consist of a biology credit (Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology), a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), and a physics credit (Physics, AP Physics, or IB Physics).

(A) The fourth credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses:

(i) Aquatic Science;

(ii) Astronomy;

(iii) Earth and Space Science;

(iv) Environmental Systems;

(v) AP Biology;

(vi) AP Chemistry;

(vii) AP Physics B;

(viii) AP Physics C;

(ix) AP Environmental Science;

(x) IB Biology;

(xi) IB Chemistry;

(xii) IB Physics;

(xiii) IB Environmental Systems; and

(xiv) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The TEA shall maintain a current list of courses approved under this clause.

(B) The additional credit may be selected from the following laboratory-based courses and may be taken after the successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with physics:

(i) Scientific Research and Design;

(ii) Anatomy and Physiology;

(iii) Engineering Design and Problem Solving;

(iv) Medical Microbiology;

(v) Pathophysiology;

(vi) Advanced Animal Science;

(vii) Advanced Biotechnology;

(viii) Advanced Plant and Soil Science;

(ix) Food Science; and

(x) Forensic Science.

(4) Social studies--four credits. The credits must consist of World History Studies (one credit), World Geography Studies (one credit), United States History Studies Since 1877 (one credit), United States Government (one-half credit), and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit).

(5) Languages other than English--three credits. The credits must consist of any three levels in the same language.

(6) Physical education--one credit.

(A) The required credit may be selected from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:

(i) Foundations of Personal Fitness;

(ii) Adventure/Outdoor Education;

(iii) Aerobic Activities; and

(iv) Team or Individual Sports.

(B) In accordance with local district policy, credit for any of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in the following activities:

(i) Athletics;

(ii) JROTC; and

(iii) appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. Such approval may be granted under the following conditions.

(I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.

(II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

(C) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:

(i) Drill Team;

(ii) Marching Band; and

(iii) Cheerleading.

(D) All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

(E) Credit may not be earned for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph more than once. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph.

(F) If a student is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a physical education course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner, a modification to a physical education course does not prohibit the student from earning a Distinguished Achievement Program diploma. A student with a physical limitation must still demonstrate proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills in a physical education course that do not require physical activity.

(G) A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

(i) the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee if the student receives special education services under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 29, Subchapter A;

(ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, §794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

(iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.

(7) Speech--one-half credit. The credit may be selected from the following courses:

(A) Communication Applications; and

(B) Professional Communications.

(8) Fine arts--one credit. The credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from the following courses:

(A) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(B) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(C) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(D) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;

(E) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;

(F) Digital Art and Animation; and

(G) 3-D Modeling and Animation.

(c) Elective courses--four and one-half credits. The credits may be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.71(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements). All students who wish to complete the Distinguished Achievement High School Program are encouraged to study each of the four foundation curriculum areas (English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) every year in high school. Two half credits may be combined to satisfy one elective credit only if neither half credit is for a course for which there is an end-of-course assessment.

(d) Advanced measures. A student also must achieve any combination of four of the following advanced measures. Original research/projects may not be used for more than two of the four advanced measures. The measures must focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level. Student performance on advanced measures must be assessed through an external review process. The student may choose from the following options:

(1) original research/project that is:

(A) judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or

(B) conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; and

(C) related to the required curriculum set forth in §74.1 of this title (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills);

(2) test data showing a student has earned:

(A) a score of three or above on the College Board advanced placement examination;

(B) a score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination; or

(C) a score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT score shall count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student; or

(3) college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit, and advanced technical credit courses, including locally articulated courses, with a grade of 3.0 or higher.

(e) Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Distinguished Achievement High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.