



LUBBOCK-COOPER ISD

...building the future, one student at a time!

Pathways Program

Grades 6-8

- Revised Fall 2025

The Lubbock-Cooper ISD Pathways Program is designed to maintain high academic standards for all courses. It includes two course paths: grade-level and advanced. All courses are aligned to the state standards and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and all courses follow the district scope and sequence for instructional units.

Considerations for Pathways

- Students and parents choosing an advanced pathway are expected to attend one of the pathways meetings hosted at an LCISD middle school.
- A matrix is used to determine students who qualify for advanced pathways. Qualification criteria include, but are not limited to, cumulative average on district assessments and achievement on STAAR and MAP.
- Students committing to an advanced pathway are expected to maintain an 80 average in advanced classes. If a student's grade at the time of any progress report drops below an 80, the following protocol will be enacted:
 - A parent conference will be held to discuss student achievement and progress.
 - Student progress will be monitored to determine if course placement needs to be adjusted.
 - If a student's grade drops below an 80 for an additional progress report period, a course change from the advanced course may be recommended.
- Review course descriptions carefully, as selected pathway changes will not be permitted once a student commits to a course. Parents and students are advised to seek advice from teachers, counselors, and administrators prior to course selections.

Advanced Pathway Descriptors

Pre-AP and Honors are labels for advanced academic courses with similar rigor and expectations. Courses with the Pre-AP label must utilize College Board materials and assessments. Honors courses incorporate similar instructional approaches but are not provided by the College Board.

Qualification Criteria and Considerations

Mathematics

- STAAR Math performance level of Meets or Masters
- Advanced level of achievement on Math district assessments
- Advanced level of achievement on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in Math
- Teacher recommendations based on classroom performance and achievement

Reading Language Arts (RLA)

- STAAR Reading performance level of Meets or Masters (recommended)
- Advanced level of achievement on RLA district assessments
- Advanced level of achievement on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in Reading
- Teacher recommendations based on classroom performance and achievement

Science

- STAAR Reading performance level of Meets or Masters (recommended)
- Advanced level of achievement on Science district assessments
- Advanced level of achievement on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in Science
- Teacher recommendations based on classroom performance and achievement

Social Studies

- STAAR Reading performance level of Meets or Masters (recommended)
- Advanced level of achievement on Social Studies district assessments
- Advanced level of achievement on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in Reading
- Teacher recommendations based on classroom performance and achievement

Mathematics

Grade 6 Mathematics (STAAR-Tested Course)

The primary focal areas in Grade 6 Math are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Grade 6 Mathematics Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

Senate Bill 2124 states that students will automatically be enrolled in this course if they performed in the top 40 percent on the 5th-grade State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

Students must achieve Meets or Masters on the STAAR Math 5 to register for this course.

Students taking this course will take the 6th-grade STAAR exam at the end of the year.

This honors course covers all of the Grade 6 Math and a portion of the Grade 7 Math state standards (TEKS). The curriculum combines the concepts of these two grade levels into an integrated approach rather than teaching the grade level concepts in isolation. Students enrolling in this advanced course should consider mastery of all Grade 5 Math TEKS as a foundation upon which this course will build. Middle school honors math courses accelerate learning to allow students to complete Algebra I by the end of their 8th-grade year. This course moves at a faster pace and is designed to provide critical thinking and processing skills necessary to be successful in Advanced Placement math courses in high school.

Grade 7 Mathematics (STAAR-Tested Course)

The primary focal areas in Grade 7 Math are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships, including number, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw

conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Grade 7 Mathematics Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

Students must achieve Meets or Masters on the STAAR Math 6 to register for this course.

Students taking this course will take the 8th-grade STAAR exam at the end of the year.

This honors course covers the compacted portion of the Grade 7 Math TEKS (not covered in Grade 6 Math Honors) and all of the Grade 8 Math TEKS. The curriculum combines the concepts of these two grade levels into an integrated approach rather than teaching the grade level concepts in isolation. Middle school honors math courses accelerate learning to allow students to complete Algebra I by their 8th-grade year. This course moves at a faster pace and is designed to provide critical thinking and processing skills necessary to be successful in Advanced Placement math courses in high school.

Grade 8 Mathematics (STAAR-Tested Course)

The primary focal areas in Grade 8 Math are Proportionality; Expressions, Equations, Relationships, and Foundations of Functions; and Measurement and Data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of real numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology. Eighth-grade students will either be provided a graphing calculator for use all year or may purchase their own.

Grade 8 Pre-AP Algebra I (EOC-Tested Course)

Students must meet qualifications to register for this course.

Students taking Algebra I Pre-AP in 8th grade must take the ACT or SAT math exam in high school to satisfy accountability requirements set by the state.

Final course grade counts toward the LCISD high school grade point average (GPA).

In alignment with LCISD high school grading guidelines, this course is weighted five points.

This is a high school course that counts as one math credit for graduation.

In Algebra I, students will build on the knowledge and skills for grades 6-8 mathematics, which provide a foundation in linear relationships, number and operations, and proportionality. Students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will connect functions and their associated solutions in both mathematical and real-world situations. Students will use technology to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions,

sequences, and laws of exponents. Students will generate and solve linear systems with two equations and two variables and will create new functions through transformations.

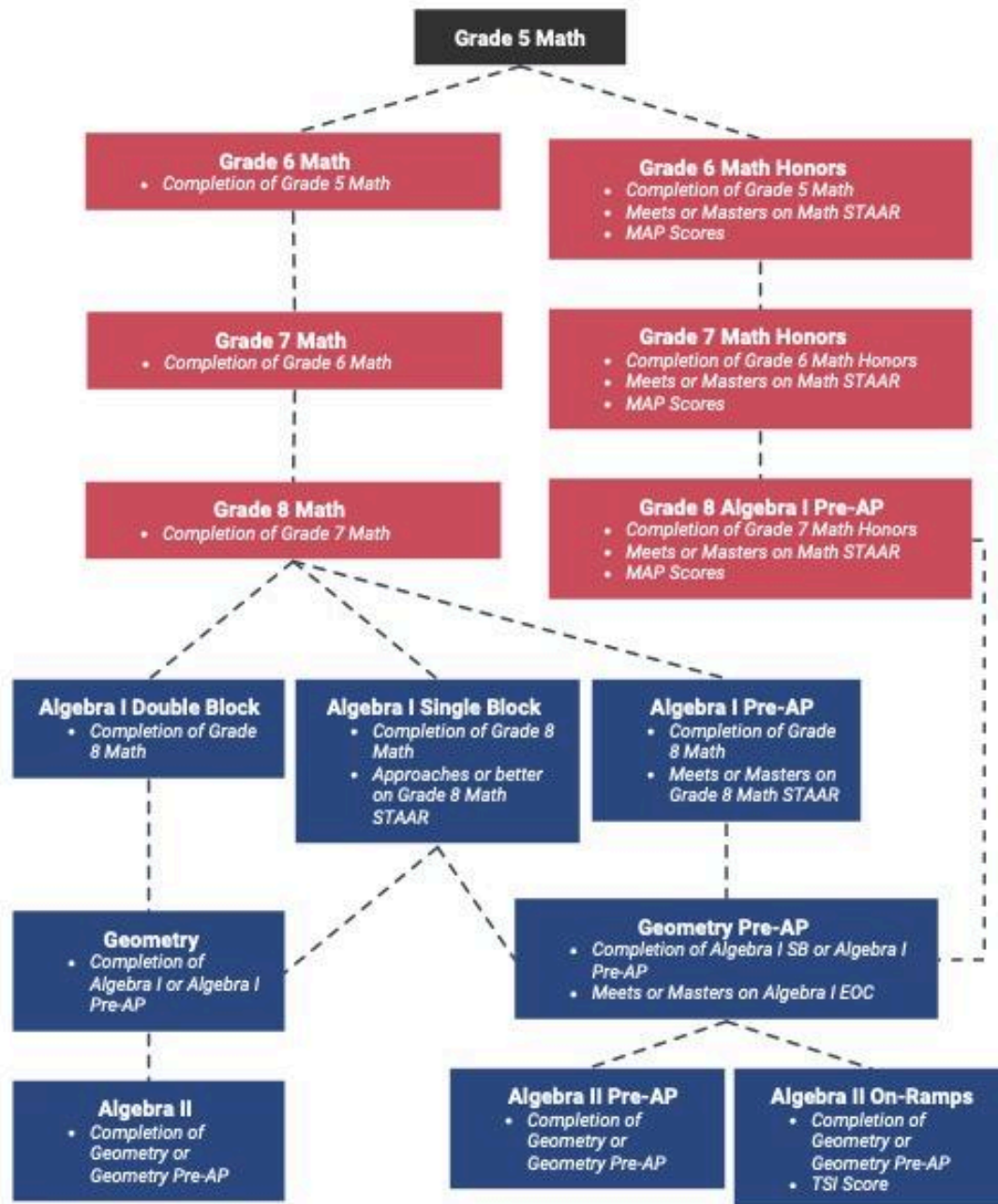
LUBBOCK-COOPER ISD

Secondary Math Flow Chart

revised Spring 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL



See the course guide for math offerings following Algebra II.
Courses may depend on endorsements.

Reading Language Arts

Grade 6 Reading Language Arts (STAAR-Tested Course)

The Reading Language Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Grade 6 Reading Language Arts Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

Students must meet qualifications to register for this course.

This course will explore the same topics as Grade 6 RLA with more depth and complexity.

Grade 7 Reading Language Arts (STAAR-Tested Course)

The Reading Language Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Grade 7 Reading Language Arts Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

Students must meet qualifications to register for this course.

This course will explore the same topics as Grade 7 RLA with more depth and complexity.

Grade 8 Reading Language Arts (STAAR-Tested Course)

The Reading Language Arts Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on academic oracy (proficiency in oral expression and comprehension), authentic reading, and reflective writing to ensure a literate Texas. The strands are integrated and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

Students must meet qualifications to register for this course.

This course will explore the same topics as Grade 8 RLA with more depth and complexity.

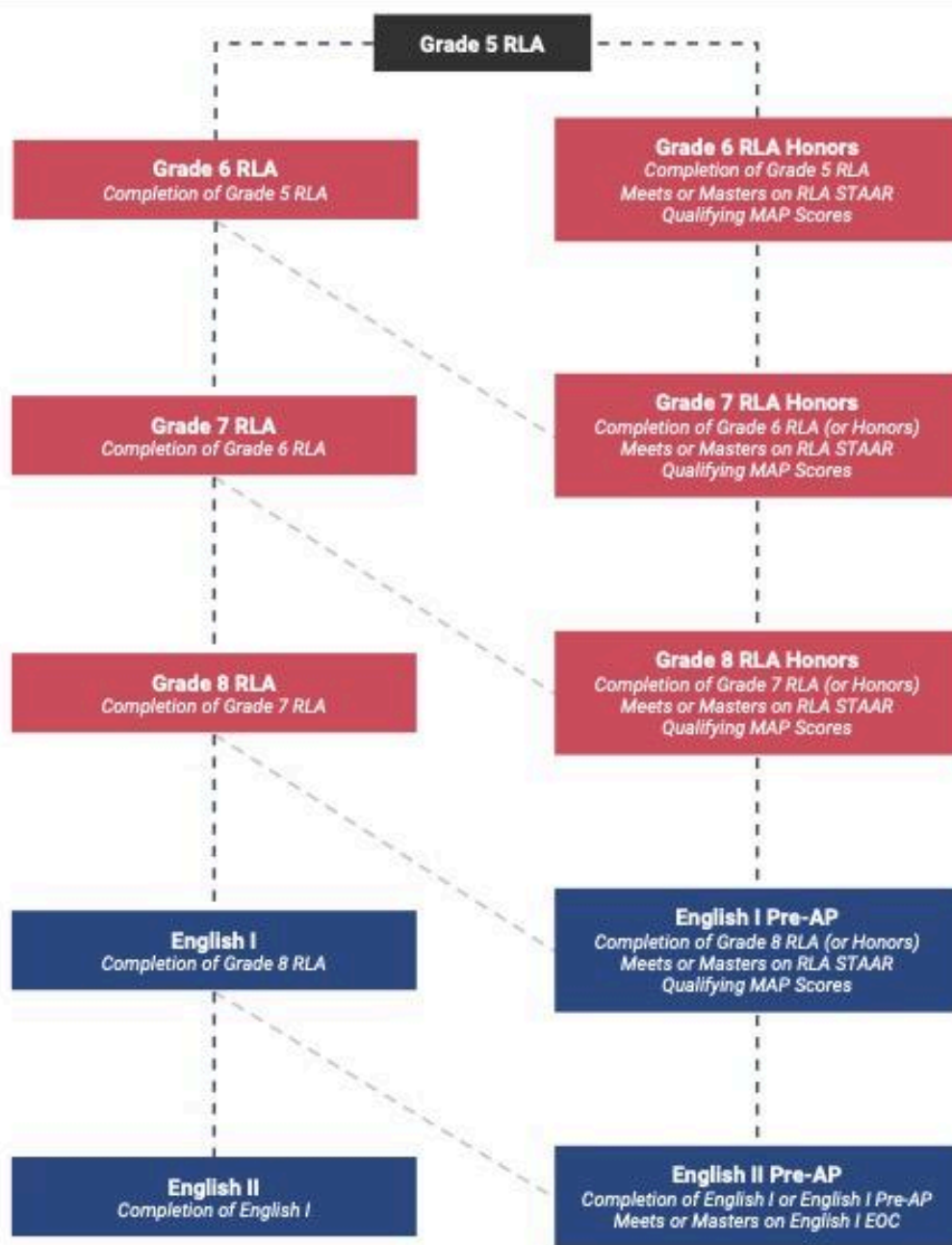
LUBBOCK-COOPER ISD

Secondary RLA Flow Chart

revised Spring 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL



See the course guide for English offerings following English II.
Courses may depend on endorsements.

Science

Grade 6 Science

In Grade 6 Science, a variety of science concepts are expanded from elementary science; however, much of the focus is on physical science. The strands include Matter and Energy; Force, Motion, and Energy; Earth and Space; and Organisms and Environment. Scientific Investigation and Reasoning standards are taught and reinforced throughout the course in each unit. As per state standards, all students participate in laboratory activities for at least 40% of class time and develop their understanding of the scientific process. Students will maintain a science notebook that documents their learning throughout the year. In addition to preparing students for future middle school science, Grade 6 Science lays the foundation for topics taught in high school.

Grade 7 Science

In Grade 7 Science, a variety of science concepts are taught with much of the content focused on organisms and the environment. The strands include Matter and Energy; Force, Motion, and Energy; Earth and Space; and Organisms and Environment. Scientific Investigation and Reasoning standards are taught and reinforced throughout the course in each unit. Students study Earth and physical science through the lens of life science. Students get to further explore living creatures, ecosystems and the human body. As per state standards, all students participate in laboratory activities for at least 40% of class time to develop their understanding of the scientific process. Students will maintain a science notebook that documents their learning throughout the year. In addition to preparing students for future middle school science, Grade 7 Science lays the foundation for topics taught in high school biology.

Grade 8 Science (STAAR-Tested Course)

In Grade 8 Science, a variety of science concepts are expanded, with the focus on earth and space science. The strands include Matter and Energy; Force, Motion, and Energy; Earth and Space; and Organisms and Environment. Scientific Investigation and Reasoning standards are taught and reinforced throughout the course in each unit. Students study physical and life science through the lens of Earth science. As per state standards, all students participate in laboratory activities for at least 40% of class time to develop their understanding of the scientific process. Students maintain a science notebook that documents their learning throughout the year. In addition to preparing students for the critical thinking required in later topics taught in high school, the curriculum prepares students for the eighth grade science STAAR exam.

Grade 8 Science Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

- Students must meet qualifications to register for this course

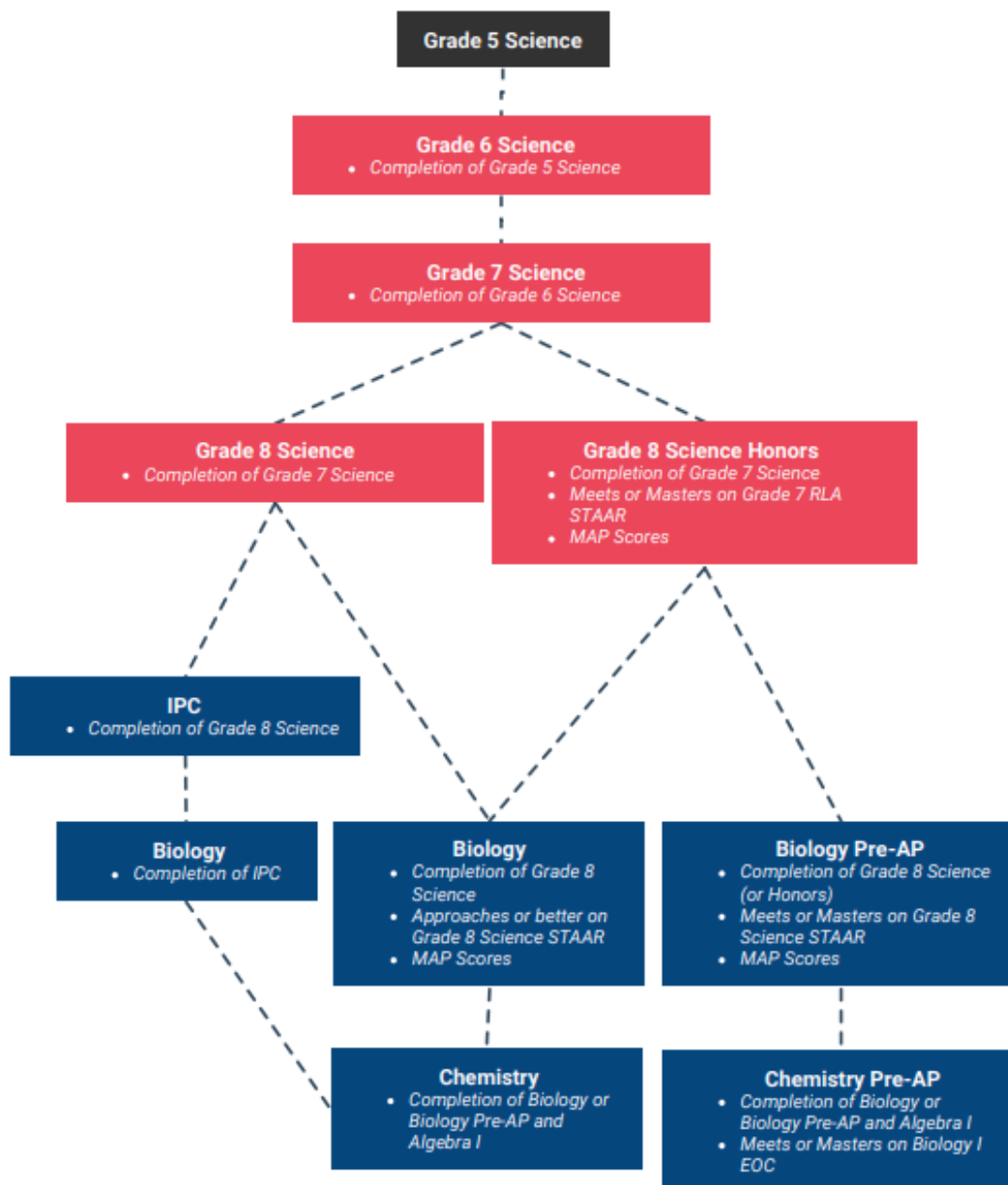
This course will explore the same topics as Grade 8 Science with more depth and complexity.

LUBBOCK-COOPER ISD

Secondary Science Flow Chart

revised Spring 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL



See the course guide for Science offerings following Chemistry.
Courses may depend on endorsements.

Social Studies

Grade 6 Social Studies

In Grade 6 Social Studies, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies.

Grade 7 Social Studies

In Grade 7 Social Studies, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions.

Grade 8 Social Studies (STAAR-Tested Course)

In Grade 8 Social Studies, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present.

Grade 8 Social Studies Honors (STAAR-Tested Course)

- Students must meet qualifications to register for this course

This course will explore the same topics as Grade 8 Social Studies with more depth and complexity.

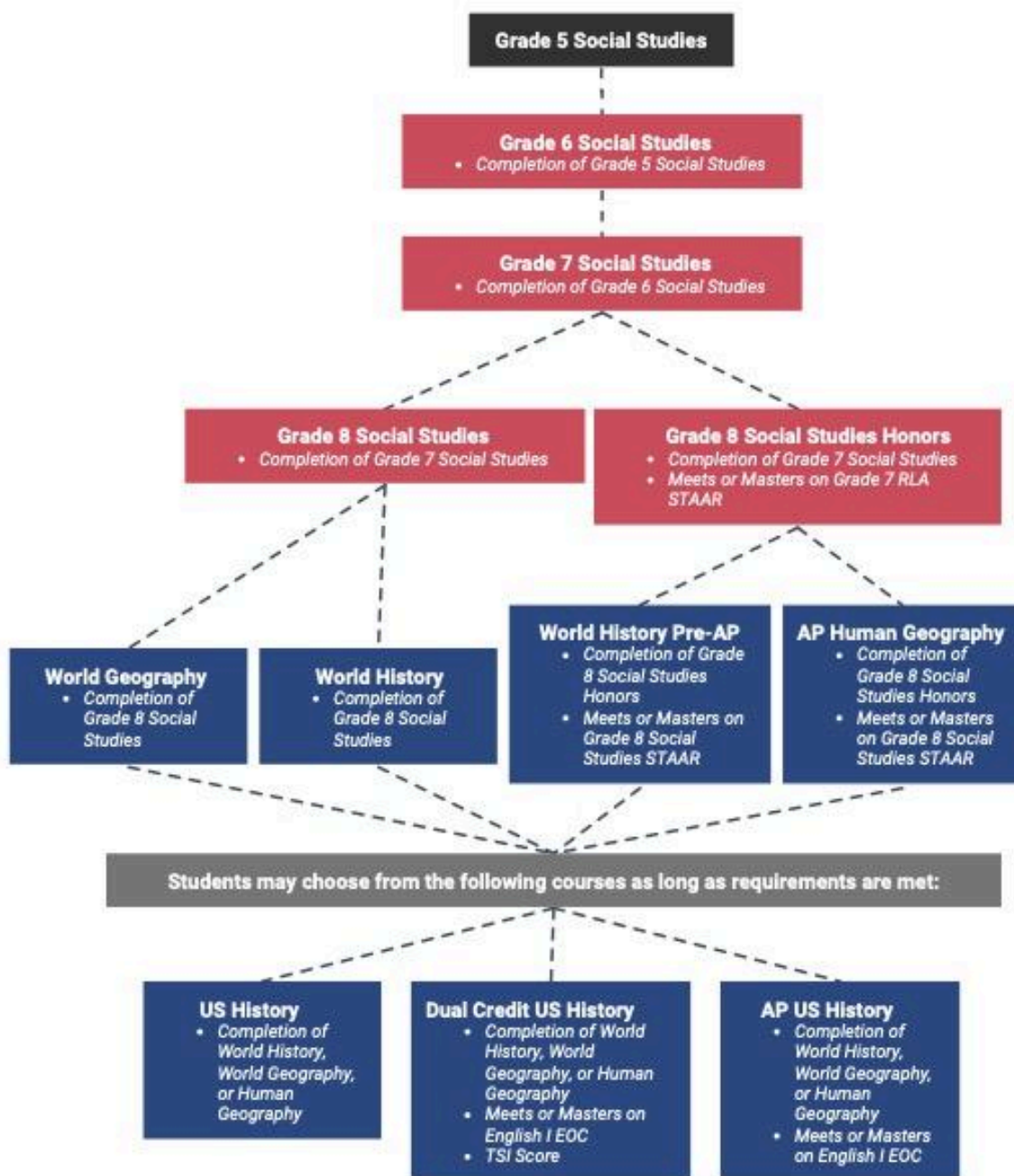
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Secondary Social Studies Flow Chart

revised Spring 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL



See the course guide for social studies offerings beyond US History.
Courses may depend on endorsements.