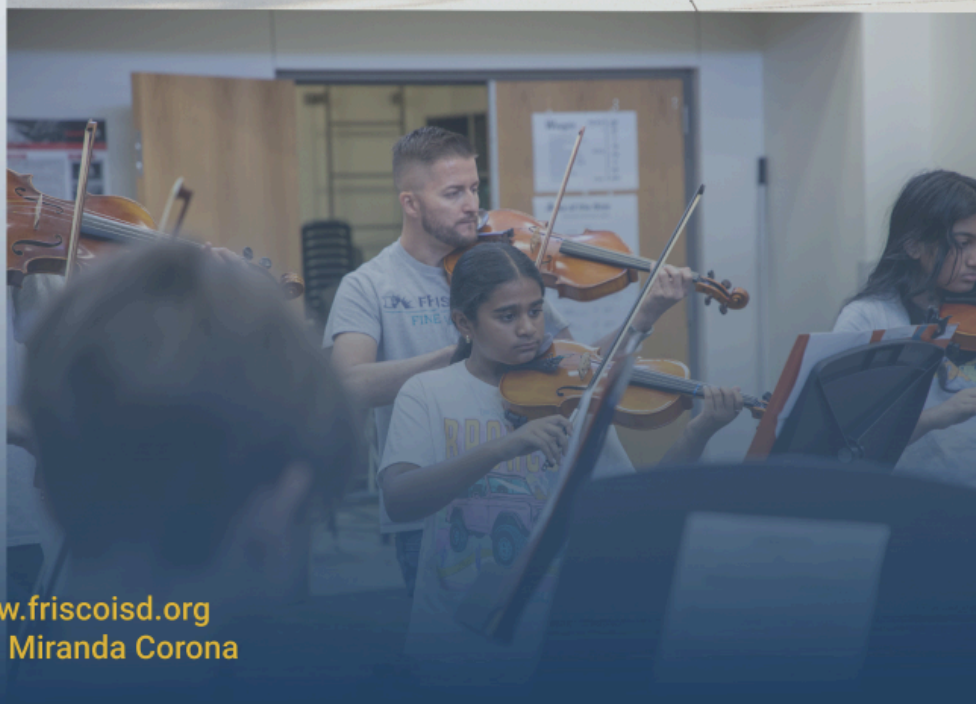
FRISCO ISD

Middle School Academic Guide

2027 - 2028







Frisco Independent School District
5515 Ohio Drive | Frisco, TX 75035
469.633.6000 PH | 469.633.6050 FAX | www.friscoisd.org
Designed by CTEC Graphic Design Student, Miranda Corona

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NOTE: Updates to the Academic Guide may be made through January 2027

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Frisco Independent School District

Mission, Vision, and Beliefs

Mission
Our mission is to know every student by name and need.

Vision
Students will be empowered to pursue their passion and purpose.

Beliefs
Education is a shared responsibility of students, school, home and community. With that as an essential principle, we believe the following to be true for students, staff, families and the community:

- Everyone has equal inherent worth and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.
- Everyone needs challenge, opportunity and encouragement.
- Each person is unique.
- Meaningful relationships have profound lifelong impact.
- Integrity is essential.
- Imagination and creativity are vital.
- A safe environment is necessary for learning.
- Every person can learn.
- Each person is ultimately responsible for his/her own learning.
- Learning is lifelong and unlimited.
- There is always room for improvement.
- All students must graduate with the skills they need to pursue their aspirations.

Motto
Pride. Tradition. Excellence.

Frisco Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs, including career and technology programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Texas Education Agency and the Texas State Board of Education often update information, especially in the areas of assessment, accountability, and graduation plans. The information in this guide is accurate as of the time it was published. This document is updated as information becomes available.

This guide is intended as a reference and does not replace policy. Any extenuating circumstances are determined at the discretion of the campus principal.

Future-Ready Focus Areas



Frisco ISD is committed to developing students who are ready for whatever lies beyond high school – whether that's college, a career, or the military. In a rapidly changing world, students need skills that can be easily transferred from one employer or job sector to another as well applied in any aspect of their life.

The term "Future Ready" defines student achievement beyond test scores, grades and class rank to encompass a broader picture of what students need to be successful, both in the classroom and following high school graduation. From developing grit to persevere through challenges and identifying solutions to real-world problems, FISD seeks to create authentic and relevant learning experiences that go beyond the required curriculum standards and foster transferable skills that can be applied to a wide variety of life and career paths. To do that, FISD must reimagine education, empower students to take an active role in their learning and tailor instruction to meet their unique needs and interests.

The Future-Ready focus areas guide the work of Frisco ISD campuses in accomplishing these goals. Our Future-Ready Profiles detail the traits FISD seeks to develop in its students, as well as the attributes cultivated in employees tasked with helping them become future ready.

- Future-Ready Leaders
- Future-Ready Educators
- Future-Ready Learners

College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) and College Readiness

Frisco ISD's Future-Ready Learner Profile highlights the skills necessary for students to be successful in their chosen postsecondary pathway. FISD equips students for their exciting futures by offering a wide variety of courses, programs, services and competitions that appeal to many interests, educational goals, and academic abilities while preparing students to be College, Career, Military, and Life Ready when they graduate high school. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) developed indicators to determine whether or not a student exited high school as College, Career, or Military Ready. The following is a summary of TEA's indicators that students may meet as part of one or more programs available in FISD.

CCMR Indicators

Every student is expected to meet at least one CCMR indicator (see table below).

College Readiness**

The College Readiness indicator is denoted by two asterisks (**). Students, in most instances, are required to meet one of the College Readiness indicators to enroll in degree-seeking credits for a college and/or university. If students fail to meet one College Readiness indicator, colleges and universities require students to enroll in non-degree seeking credits through developmental courses. If students successfully complete a dual credit reading and/or math course, the College Readiness requirement may be waived. Please see specific college and university requirements for College Readiness and college admission requirements.

Indicator	Requirement for CCMR
**ACT (American College Test)	English + Reading Combined Score >=40 Mathematics Score>=22
**SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)	SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) Score–480 SAT Math Score—530
**TSIA2 (Texas Success Initiative v.2)	See TSIA in CCMR in 2022 Accountability and Beyond
AP (Advanced Placement)	Any Subject Area Score—3 or higher
IB (International Baccalaureate)	Any Subject Areas Score-4 or higher
Dual Credit Course Credit	Earn 3 credit hours in ELA or Math OR 9 hours in any subject
Associate's Degree	Earned while in high school
Industry Based Certification	Earn an IBC and compete TEA's required accompanying course(s)
Level I or Level II Certificate	Earn a Level I or Level II certificate

Special Education	Graduates who have completed IEP and Workforce Readiness (graduation type code of 04,05,54 or 55) Graduates with an Advanced Graduation Plan (students on an IEP who complete Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement (FHSP-DLA) or Endorsement (FHSP-E) graduation plan
Military Enlistment	Enlistment with required DD Form 4 documentation

*Students may meet CCMR criteria on more than one indicator, but it is not required.
**While meeting one or more of the College-Ready Indicators signifies a student's academic achievement, students must still apply and meet admittance criteria at colleges of interest.

FISD Programs to Support College, Career, and Military

- AVID - The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program and courses are currently available to Hunt, Memorial, and Frisco High students.
- Advanced Placement Courses & Assessments
- Academic Programs of Choice - available to all students but require an approved transfer for participation
    - International Baccalaureate Program - offered at Frisco High School
    - Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps - offered at Lebanon Trail High School
- Career and Technical Education Programs of Study
- Dual Credit Courses/Programs
    - Collin College Dual Credit
    - Collin EDGE
    - Collegiate Academy at Memorial High School
- School Day Assessments
    - PSAT - administered, at no cost, to all 10th & 11th grade students each Fall
    - SAT - administered, at no cost, to all 11th grade students each Spring
    - TSIA - available, as needed, at each FISD high school
    - ASVAB - available, as needed, at each FISD high school
    - AP Testing - offered at all high schools, reduced cost available to students who qualify for free/reduced cost lunch
    - IB Testing - available for IB students at Frisco High School
- College Readiness Math & ELAR courses - available to 12th grade students who need them

This information is included in the Middle School Academic Guide so students and parents can utilize it to inform academic planning for their high school experience.

Academic Guidance & Advising

Academic Advising Approach, Resources, & Overview

Effective academic advising supports students' decision-making during the middle and high school years as well as planning for college and a career after high school. Students reap the most benefits when parents/guardians, counselors, teachers, and administrators provide cohesive support as students make decisions for themselves. The goal of FISD's academic advising process is the empowerment of all students to make informed academic decisions in grades 6-12 so they graduate prepared to enter college, start a career, or join the military.

Frisco ISD Academic Guide and Course Catalog

Frisco ISD provides two important tools, which work in tandem with one another, to guide students, parents/guardians, and school staff with consistent information through academic decision making at the secondary level in FISD.

- The **Frisco ISD Academic Guide** supports students, parents, administrators, counselors, and teachers with common understanding and application of FISD's academic expectations, practices, procedures, and board policies. The Academic Guide provides additional information and context beyond course descriptions and titles found in the Course Catalog. It also assists students and families in making wise, informed decisions concerning programs and course choices leading up to and throughout your high school years.
    - The Table of Contents provides an overview of all topics covered in the Academic Guide, but it is not a comprehensive coverage of all school policies, procedures, and rules that may be included in Board Policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and other FISD documents.
    - Students and Parents/Guardians are encouraged to utilize the Academic Planning Tools section of the FISD High School Academic Guide to complete 4-Year Planning and course selection.
    - Campus administrators and counselors provide additional campus-specific information as needed.
- The **Course Catalog** is a comprehensive listing of all courses available for students to choose as part of their annual course selection process and 4-year planning for high school.. The course catalog can be found in an online searchable database here. Students in specialized courses due to academic needs and/or an Individualized Education Plan will need support from their counselor for course selection.
    - Courses are subject to change or cancellation based on available space and/or low course enrollment. Campus counselors and administrators will provide additional information for campus-specific course offerings and availability.

Frisco ISD Academic Advising

Comprehensive Academic Guidance is provided through the FISD Counseling Department and each team of campus counselors to support students in making good academic choices as well as communicating the information in the Academic Guide and Course Catalog. College and career exploration begins in elementary school and continues through high school. The Frisco ISD Guidance and Counseling department is available to help students and families navigate multiple sources of

information and experiences to support informed academic and postsecondary decision making. Individual academic advising and guidance is provided as needed.

What to Expect in Elementary School

While academic advising begins in kindergarten, guidance through the course selection process and eventually graduation planning begins in 5th grade and continues through selection of students' courses for their senior year. The transition from elementary school to middle school is a significant time of change for students so the focus of academic advising is simple and narrow. Students are introduced to the idea and process of choosing courses for the first time in a scenario with limited choices. Students only have two advanced options in their core classes and one elective choice to make.

- 6th Grade Course Request Card 27-28

What to Expect in Middle School

Middle school is a wonderful, exciting adventure. During these years, students typically begin to experience more responsibilities, more freedom, and more fun! They will also learn a great deal about preparing for high school. It's ok for them to not know exactly what they want to do later on in life, but now is the time for many students to begin identifying their interests and skills. Most students tend to like (or love) what they are skilled in. Middle school academic advising efforts focus on helping students begin to identify and improve current skills, to pursue and connect interests to future courses and careers, and to begin high school planning.

- 7th Grade Course Request Card 27-28
- 8th Grade Course Request Card 27-28

During 6th and 7th grade, students are introduced to college and career readiness with activities designed to explore learning styles, exploring future career options, and learning about college choices.

- **Xello**- Xello is an engaging, fun-to-use college and career software that students can access online. It helps them create their very own, unique roadmap for future success by helping them uncover their unique interests and skills through a series of interactive assessments. Xello also provides a search tool where students can research thousands of careers, colleges, and majors. Every student in 6th-12th grade can access their personalized Xello account in the Student Portal by searching for the Xello tile.
- Students can begin exploring different academic pathways and course options in Frisco ISD, including:
    - Dual Credit (Collin College & Collin EDGE)
    - Advanced Placement (AP) courses
    - International Baccalaureate (IB) program
    - Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC)
    - Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)
    - Virtual Options (Frisco Flex)
    - Fine Arts
    - Athletics

- **Before 8th grade**, it's important to understand how grade point average (GPA) will be cumulatively calculated with every high school credit course. Students can begin to review the FISD GPA policy and learn about the importance of GPA, rank, and the high school transcript. Many students choose to take high school credit courses during middle school and should be aware of how the grades impact their GPA.
- Fully review the Secondary Guidelines for Exams for Acceleration to fully understand the process and implications of taking an exam for acceleration.

During 8th Grade, students begin the transition to high school by learning more about the high school endorsements, graduation requirements, and completing their own personal graduation plan (4-year plan).

- **Learn About High School Endorsements** (High School Academic Guide)
  Think of endorsements as a major for high school students- a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. Students earn one or more of five endorsements as part of their high school graduation requirements. All FISD students start high school on the multi-disciplinary plan, but many will earn additional endorsements by graduation simply by taking courses they are interested in. Here are some examples of possible careers and high school courses that connect to each endorsement:
    - **Arts and Humanities** to be an actor, musician, artist, or writer. Your student should take high school courses in English, theatre, and journalism.
    - **Business and Industry** to start your own business. Your student should take high school courses in math, accounting, and computer technology.
    - **Multidisciplinary Studies** to pick from a range of interesting classes that tie into career paths, college, or apprenticeship.
    - **Public Service** to be a lawyer or corrections officer. Your student should take high school courses in law studies, sociology, and psychology.
    - **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)** to be a chemical engineer or IT systems manager. Your student should take high school courses in mathematics, computer science, chemistry, and physics.
- **Complete High School 4 Year Planning**- During 8th grade, your student will be assisted with developing a draft 4-year plan and entering it in Career Plan in HAC. A student's 4-Year plan is like a personal graduation plan. This activity will chart out the courses your student wants and needs to take during their 4 years of high school. This process is extremely helpful in many ways:
    - **Understanding** what courses are required for high school graduation
    - **Learning** which courses have prerequisites (what your student takes in one year may affect what course can be taken the following year)
    - **Exploration** - high school is the perfect time to learn new skills and information by trying different courses, electives, and areas of interest!
    - **Choosing an appropriate balance** of challenging courses, courses of interest, and learning how CTE, Dual Credit, and Advanced Academic courses can support a student's high school and post secondary goals.
    - Students are encouraged to utilize the Academic Planning Tools section of the High School Academic Guide to complete 4-Year Planning and course selection.
- Students in middle school participate in Career Day or Career Experiences on their campus. This provides students the opportunity to hear directly from participating professionals who

represent different industries and share about their position, skill sets, and suggested steps to take to obtain a similar career! Virtual Career Day videos are available here.

What to Expect in High School Guidance

During 9th Grade

- **Challenge yourself!** Concentrate on your current courses and do the best you can!
- **Join clubs and organizations!** Your extracurricular involvement should highlight your passions, interests, and one day leadership skills!
- **Build relationships!** Build relationships with your teachers, counselors and clubs/organization sponsors.
- **Volunteer**. Community service hours are not required for high school graduation, but students who complete 100 hours or more of community service by April of their senior year will be honored by earning a cord to wear at graduation. Students can log their community service hours in Xello.
- **Continue to review high school graduation requirements.** Pass high school credit courses with a 70 or above in order to earn .5 credit each semester for each course!
- **Passing** End of Course (EOC) exams is also required for high school graduation. Many 9th graders take 3 EOC courses and exams (English 1, Algebra 1, Biology.)
- **Review** your 4-year plan and make adjustments in course selections for 10th - 12th Grade.
    - If you are interested in Dual-Credit Courses, it's time to review the admission criteria so you are prepared to enroll when the time comes.
    - If you really enjoy your CTE courses, have you planned to take additional courses in your chosen pathway?
    - Are you taking enough challenging courses or not enough? Think about the right balance for you!

During 10th Grade

- **Continue** to get good grades!
- **Get involved** or stay involved in school activities! (Quality is more important than quantity. Work towards leadership positions.)
- **Plan** junior and senior year with graduation requirements in mind.
- Consider career plans- take career assessments in Xello.
- **Begin thinking** about what you want in a college.
- **Start** your resume in Xello.
- **Pass** the English 2 EOC.
- **Take** the PSAT in October (for 10th graders, it is a practice administration)
- **Practice** for future PSAT/SAT/ACT tests by linking your College Board account (after PSAT scores are returned) to Khan Academy for individualized practice.
- **Industry Based Certificates (IBC)** can provide students work-ready credentials and can be available to students who complete certain CTE pathways. Talk with the CTEC Counselor and/or your CTE teachers to find out if you might be eligible for an IBC.
- **Review** your 4-year plan and make adjustments in course selections for 11th - 12th Grade.
    - If you are interested in Dual-Credit Courses, it's time to review the admission criteria so you are prepared to enroll when the time comes.
    - If you really enjoy your CTE courses, have you planned to take additional courses in your chosen pathway?
    - Are you taking enough challenging courses or not enough? Think about the right balance for you!

During 11th Grade (Fall)

- **Take** challenging classes and make good grades.
- **Continue** to stay involved in school activities, community service, and outside work or education

experiences. Update resume accordingly and add awards, etc.
- **Attend** FISD College Week and any College Fair events
- **Visit** 2-3 colleges. Juniors can get two excused absences to do so.
- **Take** PSAT in October (juniors are testing for National Merit status.)
- **Practice** for spring administration of ACT or SAT by linking your College Board account to Khan Academy for individualized practice.
- **Review** your 4-year plan and make adjustments in course selections for 12th Grade.
    - If you are interested in Dual-Credit Courses, it's time to review the admission criteria so you are prepared to enroll when the time comes.
    - If you really enjoy your CTE courses, have you planned to take additional courses in your chosen pathway?
    - Are you taking enough challenging courses or not enough? Think about the right balance for you!

During 11th Grade (Spring)
- **Attend** college events for juniors to learn more about upcoming admissions requirements and processes.
- **Begin** to narrow the college choices you are interested in.
- **Register** with the NCAA, if you are a potential college athlete.
- **Take** the ACT or SAT, if your college requires it for admission. SAT is administered to all FISD 11th grade students in March.
- **Industry Based Certificates (IBC)** can provide students work-ready credentials and can be available to students who complete certain CTE pathways. Talk with the CTEC Counselor and/or your CTE teachers to find out if you might be eligible for an IBC.
- **Pass** the US History EOC.

During 12th Grade (Fall)
- **Keep** your grades strong!
- **Begin** college applications. Apply to 3-5 colleges before Thanksgiving.
- **Create** a Parchment account in order to send high school transcripts.
- **Write down** and keep up with deadlines (admissions, financial aid, scholarships, etc.)
- **Retake** ACT/SAT if needed. Send scores to colleges you will be applying to.
- **Take** the optional ASVAB exam when your campus advertises the opportunity.
- **Review** TSIA requirements and exemptions if you will be attending college in Texas.
- **Submit** the FAFSA beginning on Oct. 1. Seniors must submit the FAFSA, TASFA, or opt-out form in order to graduate.
- Submit the Frisco Education Foundation Scholarship once available.
- **Use** Xello to explore available scholarships for seniors.

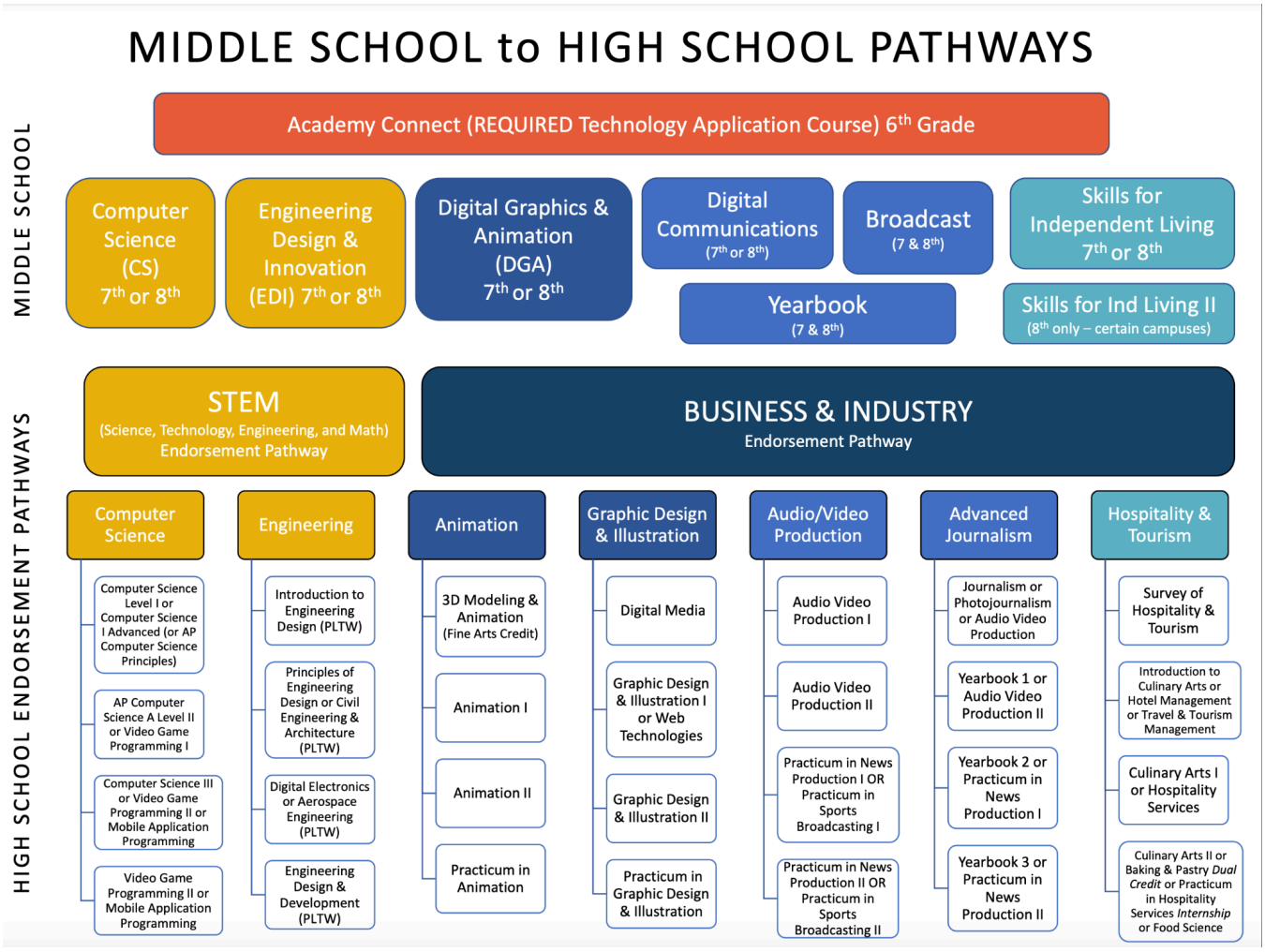
During 12th Grade (Spring)
- **Apply** for scholarships.
- **Be aware** of deadlines to submit deposits for fall.
- **Select** your college by May 1.
- **Submit** your high school's end of year Senior Survey.
- **Send** the request for your final high school transcript to be sent to your college.
- **Graduate!**

Instructional & Academic Overview

Academic & Elective Information

Middle School Career & Technical Education Pathways

Students have the opportunity to begin exploring interests in courses that interest them and provide an opportunity to preview some of the Career & Technical Education Pathways available when they enter a Frisco ISD High School. The following graphic provides an overview of middle elective options that link to CTE Pathways.



Advanced Academics

Students are encouraged to pursue more challenging coursework and may choose to enroll in FISD's Advanced courses for Integrated Language Arts, Math, or Science. All Social Studies courses in middle school provide embedded differentiation for advanced and/or GT students.

Advanced Courses

Advanced courses provide students the opportunity to learn course content with increased academic depth and complexity. The course content and level (middle or high school) of advanced courses impacts the design and purpose of the course and its curriculum. This means all advanced courses are

not the same. Frisco ISD is strongly committed to providing equity and access in the Advanced Academics programming, and all Advanced courses are open enrollment. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves by choosing advanced courses based on their interests and academic goals. More information on specific courses can be found in the FISD Course Catalog and by communicating with campus teachers and counselors. However, here are some basic guidelines regarding advanced courses.

Advanced Courses

- Can provide students a pathway to higher levels of learning and/or Advanced Placement (AP) courses by
    - exposing them to greater depth and complexity in the content.
    - allowing students to seek meaning and draw connections more independently.
    - apply concepts to novel situations.
- Cover all required grade-level TEKS and parallel the curriculum offered in other grade-level courses. Some courses move at a faster pace through an instructional week to allow more time for students to learn at a deeper level and/or apply learning in problem-solving situations.
- **Are not** simply more work or additional homework at the same level, college level, independent study, or only for students with good grades.
- Can benefit any student who
    - would like to challenge themselves.
    - has interest in a specific content area.
    - would like to develop their critical thinking skills and become comfortable with productive struggle.

Middle School Advanced Math Courses

- Move at a faster pace and/or compact required TEKS, allowing students to progress through the curriculum more quickly and reach more advanced/AP courses as they progress through the grade levels. See example math pathways in the addendum of this guide. Students may not take Geometry and Algebra II concurrently during the school day.
- Exams for Acceleration (EA) are explained in further detail here. However, it's important to note that EAs were designed to meet the needs of a small percentage of learners who have both the academic and emotional need to advance. Due to the foundational learning that occurs in Algebra I, the FISD Teaching & Learning department strongly encourages students and parents to avoid earning credit for this course via an EA.

Advanced Courses Offered at FISD Middle Schools*			
Integrated Language Arts 6, 7, 8 Advanced	Math 6, 7, and 8 Advanced	Science 7 and 8 Advanced	Algebra 1 Advanced (High School Credit)

Gifted & Talented

Students who meet eligibility requirements for Frisco ISD's GT program are provided options and services in a variety of ways at the district's middle schools. Every middle school offers a GT Integrated Language Arts class that is specifically for students identified as GT. Additionally, GT students have the option of participating in the district's advanced math pathways, advanced Science courses in grades 7 and 8, and through differentiated instruction in all Social Studies courses. Electives can also provide challenge and enrichment for GT students.

The GT referral/identification window opens in January on each FISD campus. Students who are new to FISD or have not been identified as GT through FISD's referral process, should contact the campus GT teacher(s) and/or their counselor. Students are only eligible for GT testing once per academic year. More information can be found here: Frisco ISD Gifted Education.

Frisco ISD's Gifted/Talented service model is tied to a planned sequence of courses at each grade level. Students who accelerate may disrupt that schedule of G/T services and therefore may be unable to enroll in certain G/T courses. Students and families are encouraged to meet with the campus GT teacher and counselor before requesting acceleration to review how it will affect the student's GT service plan.

Core Courses

All students in grades 6-8 take a block-scheduled Integrated Language Arts (ILA) course as well as single-blocked Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Depending on a students' grade-level and the course, they have the option of choosing advanced or high-school credit courses.

Reading & Math Lab Courses

These courses are a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading or math course and are taken in place of an elective to enable student mastery of grade-level TEKS, fill learning gaps, and develop necessary skills for successful participation in on-level courses.

Reading Lab 6, 7, 8

Reading Lab is a year long course for those students who struggle with basic reading competencies. Emphasis is placed on using specific reading strategies to increase skills in comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, and reference usage. Instruction is differentiated and tailored to the individual needs of each student. The model includes experiences in whole and small group instruction, independent reading, and technology-based learning. This course is intended for intervention in reading.

Math Lab 6, 7, 8

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Special Education

Students experiencing prolonged difficulties in school may be referred for services in special education. Before a student can receive special education and/or related services for the first time, an initial evaluation must be conducted. Decisions regarding the provision of special education services are made by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If a student is determined to be eligible for services in accordance with the Texas Education Agency guidelines, an individualized education plan (IEP) is developed. Instruction designed to meet a student's unique educational needs may be provided in a variety of settings. Instructional settings may include (a) general education classroom with accommodations, (b) general education classroom with support, (c) resource classroom, (d) self-contained classroom, or (e) a separate campus. Additional or related services necessary for the student to benefit from special education may also be provided. More information can be found on the Special Education page of the FISD website.

World Languages

Students in grades 7 and 8 have the option to choose high school Spanish as one of their electives. Spanish I and II are available at all middle schools, and the courses count toward a student's high school GPA and will be included on the student's high school transcript.

Physical Education

Students are required to take PE in 6th grade. 6th grade students can choose traditional PE, or they may choose Pre-Athletics if they are interested in participating in Athletics during 7th/8th grade. Uniforms and dressing out for PE may be required.

Off-Campus PE

The purpose of Frisco ISD Off-Campus Physical Education program is to accommodate secondary students who are making a serious effort to develop higher-level skills allowing them to be involved in a physical education program that provides training exceeding that which is offered in our school district. Students may apply to receive PE credit at an approved off-campus private or commercially sponsored physical activity program. Please check the FISD OCPE Website or contact your campus counselor for registration information. Applications must be submitted using the procedures on the site. The OCPE program approves/denies applications; the campus counselor does not approve/deny applications.

Health

Students are required to take Health (.5 credit) in order to graduate from an FISD High School. This course is available at all high schools as well as all middle schools for 8th graders. All instruction in this course is aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. The Health curriculum includes the following instructional units that require parent/guardian notification or permission.

- The parenting and paternity awareness unit requires permission from parents/guardians of students under the age of 14. Parents of students who are under the age of 14 (on the first day of school) and enrolled in Health will receive an email notification to give their permission for the student to participate in the parenting and paternity awareness unit.
- The reproductive and sexual health unit is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, but parents may want to utilize discretion on when their student take this course. All instructional materials have been approved by both the State and Frisco ISD's Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC).

Fine Arts

Students have many opportunities in middle school to begin or continue their interest in various Fine Arts programs. The beginning classes for all programs require no prior experience and focus on basic fundamentals of learning the instrument or art of their choice. Students usually begin a Fine Arts program in 6th grade, but beginning courses are also available to 7th and 8th graders.

Fine Arts Programs Available to Middle School Students		
Band	Orchestra	Theater
Choir	Art	Theater Production & Technical Theater

Middle School Athletics (7th & 8th Graders only)

FISD UIL Competitive Sports offered in Athletics Course:	FISD UIL Competitive Sports offered Before/After School:
Football	Cross Country (boys & girls)
Volleyball	Track (boys & girls)
Basketball (boys & girls)	Soccer (boys & girls)

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic class period, boys must participate in football, basketball, cross country, track or soccer. Girls must participate in volleyball, cross country, basketball, track or soccer. Students are required to maintain passing grades and outstanding behavior to participate in the athletic programs.

- In order to meet the UIL age requirements for 7th grade athletics, a student cannot have reached their 14th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.
- In order to meet the UIL age requirement for 8th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 15th birthday, on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

UIL Athletic Eligibility

High School Courses in Middle School

In accordance with UIL eligibility policy and the Texas Education Agency, Frisco ISD has determined that any student who takes an Advanced or Advanced Placement high school credit course in middle school, will automatically retain UIL eligibility for extracurricular activities including Athletics, Fine Arts, and Academic competitions regardless of their marking period grade.

Most Common Courses Exempt from UIL Eligibility Requirements	
Algebra I & II Advanced	English I & II Advanced
Geometry Advanced	Biology Advanced
Chemistry Advanced	All AP Courses

Note: Spanish, Health, and other non-advanced high school courses taken while in middle school are NOT considered Advanced and students must maintain a 70% or higher in those courses to retain eligibility.

Middle School Advanced Courses

Students participating in extra-curricular activities regulated by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) must maintain a 70% or higher in all courses. Students enrolled in advanced middle school courses (listed below) will retain UIL eligibility for extracurricular activities if the grade earned at the first six week UIL eligibility checkpoint, or any subsequent nine week marking period is between 60%-69%. Grades below 60% in advanced courses and below 70% in all other courses at the first six

week UIL eligibility checkpoint, or any subsequent nine week marking period will result in the student being ineligible to participate in UIL activities until the next opportunity to regain UIL eligibility. The following advanced level courses are the **most common** advanced courses at FISD middle schools:

Courses Exempt from UIL Eligibility Requirements	
Advanced & GT Integrated Language Arts 6, 7, 8	Math 6, 7, and 8 Advanced
Science 7 and 8 Advanced	

General Academic Information

Changing Class Schedules

Students finalize pre-enrollment in the spring semester for the upcoming school year, and the campus master schedule is based on student's course selections. Students will be able to see and change their next year course requests (pending availability) through **February 11**. Parents/Students should contact their campus counselor and/or administrator for deadlines related to course selections. Any schedule changes after the campus-determined deadline is at the discretion of campus administration and/or is only done to correct course placements that are not appropriate or accurate. **Students should select their alternate course choices wisely as they may likely be in one of those courses.**

Class schedule changes for athletics and fine arts programs and other application/audition based courses are accepted after **February 11**. Middle school programs include: athletics, band, orchestra, choir, and theater. Middle school application courses include: Broadcast 7/8, Yearbook, Partner's PE, and Student Aide. Athletics and most fine arts typically require extensive time before or after school practices. Course fees may be included in athletic, fine arts, and CTE electives.

Leveling down and/or dropping any course should *only* be considered when students are experiencing significant academic challenges. The decision to level down from an advanced course and/or drop an on-level high-school credit course should occur at the 6th week of the school year. When students level down into a new course, grades previously earned will transfer to the new course. Dropping an on-level high-school course (such as Health) after this time can present learning, grade, GPA, and scheduling challenges for students. **The option to drop an on-level/required high-school course is only offered to middle school students.** High-school credit courses dropped at the end of the semester will be recorded on a student's transcript, and the grade will be included in GPA calculation.

The decision to make a schedule change should be made based on a student's needs with consideration of input from the teacher, student and parents. Students/Parents are required to follow campus procedures for requesting schedule changes. Leveling down or dropping a course will likely impact a student's entire schedule, especially if dropping elective courses. Campus administration has authority and final approval on all necessary schedule changes.

Courses Eligible for 6-Week Level Down		
Algebra 1**	Advanced ILA (6-8)	Geometry**
Advanced Math (6-8)	Spanish 1* & 2*	Advanced Science (7-8)
Spanish 3** & 4***	Health*	Other HS courses taken by middle school students

*on-level high school course
**advanced high school course
***AP high school course

Please note that some courses mentioned in this section are not available at all middle school campuses.

High School Courses Taken in Middle School

Frisco ISD offers some high school courses in middle schools. The most common high-school credit courses offered in middle schools are Algebra 1, Geometry, Spanish 1 & 2, and Health. However, there are additional high-school courses offered at middle schools, as needed, to meet student needs. It's important for parents and students to consider the following when selecting high school credit courses in middle school:

- The implications of the acceleration of high school courses at the middle school level can have an impact on course sequencing through Grade 12.
- Grades earned in high school courses taken at the middle school level are included on the student's permanent high school transcript and in the calculation of their high school GPA.
- Students who take high school credit courses must show satisfactory completion of the necessary prerequisites outlined by FISD and/or the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Additionally, students must pass applicable STAAR/End of Course (EOC) exams as required by TEA for graduation.
- In unique situations, a middle school student may need a high school class that is only offered at a high school campus. Scheduling a course at a high school can be challenging for students on a middle school schedule. The following options are available to counselors for scheduling:
    - 1st Option: Choose courses available at the student's zoned high school campus.
    - 2nd Option: Choose courses available via Frisco Flex

Middle school students may not enroll in Geometry (On-Level or Advanced) and Algebra II (On-Level or Advanced) concurrently.

*more information to come by January 2027 on Frisco Flex options

New State Assessment Student Success Tool (SST)

Coming Soon 2027-2028

House Bill (HB) 8, 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2025, was passed in September 2025. This bill introduces significant changes to the Texas Assessment Program beginning in the 2027–28 school year. These changes include replacing the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) with a new instructionally supportive assessment program—the Student Success Tool (SST)—for Texas public school systems.

Question and Answer from Texas Education Agency (TEA)

More Information Coming Spring 2027

Prior to 2027-2028 School Year
STAAR Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, and End of Course Exams (EOCs)

All students in applicable courses will take required STAAR tests and/or End of Course (EOC) Assessments in accordance with state law. Middle school students enrolled in high school EOC tested courses are only required to take the EOC assessment for the courses in which they are enrolled. Additionally, 8th Grade students enrolled in Geometry may be required to take the 8th Grade Math STAAR test. Achieving "Approaches Grade Level" or higher on all High School EOC exams is a graduation requirement in the State of Texas. Students not achieving "Approaches Grade Level" on EOCs will be given the opportunity to retest in accordance with the state testing calendar.

The State acknowledges performance levels as the following:

- Masters Grade Level
- Meets Grade Level
- Approaches Grade Level
- Did Not Meet Grade Level

Students Not Meeting "Approaches Grade Level" Standard on STAAR/EOC

The "Approaches Grade Level" standard is considered passing on each STAAR and EOC exam. Students who do not meet grade level on STAAR are required to complete 30 hours of academic acceleration provided by FISD. Parents and students will receive an Accelerated Instruction Plan (AIP) that will address student needs for content not mastered, as indicated on the STAAR test.

Grading System

Student academic evaluation is achieved through the use of a grading system. An average grade of 70 is required for successful completion of a course. The grading system of the Frisco Independent School District shall be in accordance with the following scale:

A: 90-100 **B:** 80-89 **C:** 70-79 **F:** Below 70

If a student fails one semester, but passes the second semester of the same course, a student may gain credit for that semester if they "average pass" the course. To average pass, the averages of the two semesters must be at or above 70%. First and second semester grades must average to a 70 or above to earn full credit.

Each teacher is required to effectively communicate their grading standards to students and parents. Grade reports are posted each nine weeks, usually on the Friday following the end of the grading period. Progress reports are posted mid-way through each quarter. All FISD secondary schools participate in the Home Access Center, a web-based communications system that allows parents and students to obtain information online regarding the student's current grades as well as assignment information. Students and parents will be given instructions regarding utilization of this system at the beginning of the year. Additional information regarding Home Access Center can be found here.

Assessment and Grading

The goal of Frisco ISD's assessment and grading system is to help ensure student understanding of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and other appropriate content standards. The system exists to communicate student performance to all stakeholders.

1. Assessment: The purpose of assessment is to provide timely and continuous feedback to students and parents in order to monitor progress, teachers in order to make instructional decisions regarding intervention/extension, and stakeholders in order to make placement/program decisions.
2. Grading: Grades serve as artifacts of learning and communicate what students know and are able to do for a wide variety of audiences including students, parents, school administrators, post-secondary institutions, and employers. Grades need to be a true reflection of the student's relative level of understanding of content, knowledge, and skills. While grades are a final necessity for certain processes (GPA, rank), grades only represent a student's understanding of a specific topic at a point in time.

Alternative Methods for Earning Course Credit

All additional methods of earning credit that are completed during the school day adhere to UIL rules and guidelines as well as the TEA-UIL Side-by-Side (No Pass No Play) academic policies.

Recovery of Failed Courses Required for Promotion

The goal of the Frisco ISD Course Recovery Program is to assist middle school students who are deficient in required course passage, while at the same time preserving the need for students to demonstrate mastery of applicable TEKS for the course and grade. FISD will ensure that every student has the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of TEKS necessary to pass all required courses for promotion to the next grade level. Middle school students who fail a course may recover credit through the following options:

- **Lesson Mastery** - Lesson Mastery is an online platform that includes required middle-school core courses. The course work is developed by FISD, and allows a student to earn a passing grade and demonstrate mastery of essential knowledge and skills. Students must complete the required course work at home or during advisory.
- **Academic Recovery** - Some middle schools offer an Academic Recovery course during the day for students to complete Lesson Mastery course work while at school. Students in danger of not meeting grade-level promotion may also be placed in an Academic Recovery course to receive additional academic support to prevent retention in their current grade. This decision is made by the student's counselor, administrator, and parent. Placement in Academic Recovery, or alternatively named class, eliminates one elective in the student's schedule.
- **Summer School** - Students who don't meet promotion requirements may participate in Lesson Mastery during the summer. Participation in summer school includes a fee that is paid by students/families.

Participation in a middle-school course recovery/Lesson Mastery can only improve a student's cumulative grade. If your student participates in course recovery, the campus counselor and/or administrator will provide additional information.

Distance Learning & Correspondence for Original Credit

Frisco ISD encourages students to complete courses through the district. Although distance learning and correspondence courses are available, students are not required to enroll in them. Any distance (online) or correspondence courses must be pre-approved by the campus counselor in order for the student to receive credit. Pre-approval from your campus counselor guarantees that the appropriate courses are selected to meet graduation requirements.

Students in the class of 2024 and beyond will have these courses included in their GPA calculation. Limited programs are accepted for Frisco ISD credit. These programs are currently limited to:

- Frisco ISD RAIL
- FISD Secondary Summer School
- Texas Tech
- University of Texas
- Texas Virtual School Network

Coursework from non-approved programs will not count for credit toward graduation. Courses for credit must be successfully completed in full and transcripts received prior to the start of the semester or the student will be enrolled in the appropriate course.

Correspondence Courses from Texas Tech or University of Texas

Counselor permission is required before beginning an online course from TTU or UT. Courses approved and completed in the appropriate timeline will ensure coursework is selected in the appropriate scope and sequence. For middle school and high school prerequisite courses, coursework must be successfully completed in full and score reports received prior 7/15/2026 for the student to be enrolled in the next appropriate course the following school year. Without documented approval, campuses have the right to not accept the earned credit/scores.

Approval Timeline
Students classified in grades 6th- 8th may be approved in spring semester during the window advertised from the home campus.

GPA Calculation (for high school credit coursework):
Courses approved and completed in the appropriate timeline will ensure the credit is issued and the course will be counted appropriately in the corresponding GPA/rank run.

Approved high-school credit courses will be calculated into GPA if they are completed by the following dates:

- Prerequisite courses (both semesters) completed before 7/15/2026 will ensure students can be scheduled into the next applicable course.
- Online high school credit-courses that have been approved by a counselor will be added to a student's high school transcript once completed. These courses will be reflected in a student's GPA in the January GPA/rank run during a student's 9th grade year.

Credit Through Testing

Credit By Exam (CBE)

There are two types of Credit By Exam (CBE): CBE **With** Prior Instruction and CBE **Without** Prior Instruction. Both provide an opportunity to earn course credit through examination; however, they are administered for different purposes and have different eligibility requirements.

Credit by Exam With Prior Instruction

A CBE **With** Prior Instruction is used to earn credit for a course when a student has had **prior instruction** and meets one of the following conditions:

- the student is enrolling in the district from a **non-accredited school;**
- the student has **failed a subject or course**; **or**
- the student has earned a passing grade in a subject or course but has failed to earn credit because of **excessive absences**.

Students must demonstrate mastery of **70% or higher** on a Credit by Exam **With** Prior Instruction to earn credit.

Credit by Exam Without Prior Instruction

A CBE **Without** Prior Instruction provides students the opportunity to earn grade-level or course credit for a course in which they have **not received prior formal instruction**.

This option is:

- intended for a **very small percentage of learners** who have both the **academic and emotional readiness to advance**.
- **not intended for grade level recovery** when a student has been retained in a grade level.

Students must demonstrate **80% or higher** on a Credit by Exam **Without** Prior Instruction to earn credit.

More information on Credit by Exam, including testing schedules, can be found on FISD's website.

For middle school courses, the student's CBE numerical score will be documented in the student's permanent academic record.

Scores not meeting the passing standard will be documented in the student's high school transcript or middle school permanent record as **"NG" (No Grade).**

Credit by Exam Without Prior Instruction - Acceleration

If a student passes a CBE Without Prior Instruction, the student will be **accelerated**. If a student does not want to accelerate or is unsure about accelerating, the student should **not take a CBE Without Prior Instruction**.

Parents who wish to have their child take a CBE Without Prior Instruction should carefully read the District Guidelines for Credit By Exam **AND** must contact their child's counselor and complete the FISD CBE online application process by the deadline posted on the district website.

While it is not encouraged, the Frisco ISD Board does allow parents to request a CBE Without Prior Instruction outside of Frisco ISD.

- Approved institutions are limited to **University of Texas High School (UTHS)** and **Texas Tech University (TTU),** and **Avant Assessment (World Languages Only)** .
- Counselor approval is still needed. Parents should obtain an application from the counselor by the district's published application close dates.
- In this case, the parent is responsible for the cost of testing, and all requirements outlined in TAC 74.24 as well as our own district guidelines must be followed.
- The parent is responsible for providing proof of approval, paying all testing costs, and registering for the correct exam(s).
- **Important:** Approval must be obtained **prior to testing**. Scores from independently administered exams may not be accepted without documented district approval.

Exams must be completed and official scores received **before the start of the semester.** Otherwise, the student will be enrolled in the appropriate course.

Because of the foundational learning involved in Algebra I, students are strongly discouraged from using the CBE option to advance through the course. Students should consider other options for advancing through the mathematics course sequence.

Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through this method may not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines.

Credit by Exam With Prior Instruction

Under certain circumstances, students may be eligible to take a CBE for a course in which they have received prior instruction but did not receive credit. This option must be approved by the campus principal or designee.

This option may apply to students who:

- Have not earned credit due to extenuating circumstances, such as a family move or illness.
- Attended a homeschool program or non-accredited private school and need state-approved credit.
- Attended school in a foreign country where instruction was provided in a language other than English and need to demonstrate proficiency for a language course such as French, Spanish, or German.

Students are encouraged to review the admission requirements for universities before choosing the credit by exam option. Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit by exam may not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines

Applications are available from the school counselor and must be submitted by the parent electronically. There is a fee of $45-$50 (depending on exam) for each semester exam.

Exam Study Guides

Study guides are available through the following institutions:
Texas Tech University
University of Texas

What is “Prior Instruction?”

For purposes of Credit by Exam, **prior instruction** may be established when a student has:

- A course grade on a transcript below 70.
- Transcripted credit from a non-accredited organization.
- Lost credit due to excessive absences.
- Missed **25% or more of the instructional days in a semester**.
- Attended **90% or more of a semester** but was unable to complete the course in its entirety.

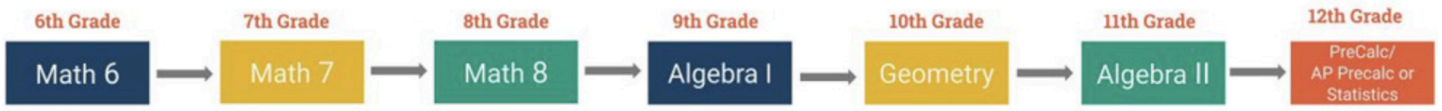
See also: EHDB (LOCAL) Board Policy

World Language Distance Learning & Correspondence Credit

Students have the opportunity to seek a maximum of two credits for the purpose of meeting graduation requirements for World Languages. These courses must be from an accredited school within the United States that has been approved by Frisco ISD. Courses must be taken outside of normal school hours and credits can only be earned during or after the student's 7th grade year. Students with graduation dates of 2024 and beyond must provide the correct documentation of grades along with the transcript in order for GPA points to be awarded. GPA points will not be awarded to students graduating prior to 2024.

Examples of Math Course Pathways

Traditional Pathway



Advanced Placement Pathways

