

**Office of the Director
Nikki Blanchat**



Crosby Independent School District
College & Career Readiness
706 Runneburg Rd. – Crosby, Texas 77532
Phone (281) 328-9200 ext. 1261

May 5, 2014

Dear Cougar Parent/Guardian,

During the Texas 83rd Legislative Session, lawmakers passed House Bill 5, a sweeping bill that has brought significant changes to education in Texas. Among these changes is the reduction of the number of STAAR end-of-course exams from 15 to five required for graduation. Students must meet state requirements on the following end-of-course exams: English I, English II, Algebra I, US History, and Biology, in conjunction with completing the appropriate number of courses and credits to graduate from high school.

In addition, HB5, as the bill is known, was designed to instill more flexibility in public education by providing graduation planning that enables students to follow a traditional path into colleges, universities, or move more directly into the workforce. The Foundation Plan is the new graduation plan that also includes earning an endorsement upon graduation.

The endorsements are designed to help guide students throughout their high school experience and put them on an early career path. Crosby High School's Programs of Study closely align with the new endorsements. Students entering high school during the 2014-2015 academic year will graduate under the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement. The Foundation Plan expands the availability of career and technology (CTE) courses and encourages students to select a personal pathway of study or Endorsement. All students entering 9th grade in 2014 will be required to select one of the five endorsements:

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
Business & Industry
Public Services
Arts and Humanities
Multidisciplinary Studies

It is also important to note that a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement by completing 26 credits. These credits must include the Foundation Plan requirements and at least one Endorsement. Algebra II must be completed as one of the four math credits and a fourth advanced science credit must be earned as one of the Foundation or elective credits. Students must graduate at the Distinguished Level of Achievement to be eligible for automatic admission to state colleges and universities through the Top Ten Percent Plan.

Early preparation can give students an edge on their futures. Crosby ISD believes that all students deserve an education that fit their personal needs. HB5 has given schools the ability to customize a student's learning and be better prepared for their future upon high school graduation.

More information can be found on the CISD website about the implications of House Bill 5. In addition, you may find useful tools about graduation requirements, career planning, scholarships, etc. under the Guidance Counseling/College and Career Readiness Department website at www.crosbyisd.org.

We appreciate the fantastic support we receive from our parents, community members and business leaders. Together we are working to ensure that students in CISD graduate fully prepared for life after high school.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel to contact me or your child's school counselor to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikki Blanchat', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikki Blanchat, M.Ed.
Director of College & Career Readiness