This step-by-step guide will help you move down the path to High School graduation. Check off milestones as you go to keep track of your progress.

8TH GRADE:
- Meet with your middle school counselor
- Talk about what you've learned with your middle school counselor
- Consider your options after high school
- Learn which high schools you can attend
- Pick your endorsement plan

9TH GRADE:
- Confirm final course selection & schedule
- Get your schedule
- Can you earn an industry certificate?
- Pick your endorsement classes
- Aim for the distinguished plan!

10TH GRADE:
- Complete all classes on your plan
- Junior year spring: meet with your counselor about options after high school
- Junior & senior years: apply to at least 3 colleges
- Senior year fall: apply to at least 3 colleges
- Senior year spring: apply for FAFSA
- Complete industry certifications

11TH GRADE:
- Apply for scholarships
- Attend college & career open houses and fairs
- Research jobs
- Research colleges
- Attend high school websites
- Look for videos on jobs
- Talk with adults about their jobs
- Graduating with an endorsement!
NAME: GEARING UP FOR HIGH SCHOOL? STUDENTS ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE ARE REQUIRED TO SELECT AN ENDORSEMENT TO ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR COMPLETING REQUIRED GRADUATION CREDITS. FOLLOW THIS STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU START YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION ON THE RIGHT PATH.

PUBLIC SERVICES
Includes courses directly related to database management, information technology, communications, accounting, finance, marketing, graphic design, architecture, construction, welding, logistics, automotive technology, agricultural science and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Includes courses directly related to political science, world languages, cultural studies, English literature, history and fine arts.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (APPLIES TO SOME DALLAS ISD MAGNET SCHOOLS)
Includes courses from the curriculum of each Endorsement area and credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School Program.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
Includes courses from the curriculum of each Endorsement area and credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School Program.

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS)
This path includes courses directly related to science (including environmental science), technology (including computer science), engineering and advanced mathematics, or a coherent sequence of some Career and Technology Education courses.

What is the Foundation High School Program?
The Foundation High School Program is a core set of classes in the areas of math, English, science, social studies, foreign language, fine arts, physical education and electives that all students must complete as a foundation to graduate from high school in Texas.

What is an Endorsement?
All incoming ninth grade students will select an Endorsement as a plan to complete the required credits for graduation.

The five endorsements you can earn are:

1. **PUBLIC SERVICES**
   - Includes courses directly related to database management, information technology, communications, accounting, finance, marketing, graphic design, architecture, construction, welding, logistics, automotive technology, agricultural science and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

2. **ARTS AND HUMANITIES**
   - Includes courses directly related to political science, world languages, cultural studies, English literature, history and fine arts.

3. **MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES** (APPLIES TO SOME DALLAS ISD MAGNET SCHOOLS)
   - Includes courses from the curriculum of each Endorsement area and credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School Program.

4. **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**
   - Includes courses from the curriculum of each Endorsement area and credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School Program.

5. **STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS)**
   - This path includes courses directly related to science (including environmental science), technology (including computer science), engineering and advanced mathematics, or a coherent sequence of some Career and Technology Education courses.

What is the Distinguished Level of Achievement?
A student can earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement by completing 26 credits. These credits must include the Foundation Program 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.

My neighborhood high school does not have the Endorsement I want. What are my options?
Dallas ISD has magnet programs, academies, and pathways that can help you meet your goals. You can apply for a magnet program that specializes in certain Endorsements, and if you are accepted Dallas ISD will provide transportation to the magnet high school. You must apply to be considered for acceptance and certain grade and test score criteria apply.

Academy programs are another option.
You must apply to be considered, but no specific grade or test scores are required. If accepted, you will need to provide your own transportation to the academy.

You also can take several courses along a pathway at your neighborhood high school.

Have more questions about selecting an Endorsement?
Talk with your guidance counselor to determine the best path for you.

Learn More ➔ www.dallasisd.org/graduationplan