



August 30, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to a new school year in Arlington ISD. This letter provides important information about your student's high school course selections and graduation plan.

The Foundation High School Program with endorsements allows students to pursue their interests. It is the default graduation program for students who entered high school in the 2014-15 school year or thereafter. The graduation program provides flexibility for high school students to pursue post-secondary higher education in an area of interest for them. Additionally, a student can enhance their graduation program and earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement for outstanding performance.

A recent update by state law (*Texas Education Code, Section 28.025*) does not require students to successfully complete Algebra II as a requirement for high school graduation. However, there are potential consequences to a student who does not successfully complete an Algebra II course.

A student is eligible for automatic admission to most Texas public colleges or universities as an undergraduate student if the student earns a grade point average in the top 10 percent of the student's high school graduating class and successfully completes the requirements for the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School Program. To earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement or be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university as an undergraduate student, the student must successfully complete high school Algebra II. Furthermore, successfully completing Algebra II is necessary to be eligible for certain financial aid including; the TEXAS grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 56; and the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program under Subchapter P, Chapter 56.

Course selection is an integral component of each student's high school and post-secondary educational journey. Students who desire to opt out of Algebra II should carefully consider the implications of the action with their parent/guardian and school counselor before doing so. It is vital that your student research the core academic requirements for admission to the college or university of his or her choice before opting of Algebra II. If you have questions about this letter or your student's graduation plan requirement, please contact your student's campus school counselor.