

Benefits of the Recommended High School Program for Graduation

Dear Parents/Guardians

The 81st Texas Legislature, 2009, passed House Bill (HB) 3, amending the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.025, to require school districts to provide written notice to parents/guardians explaining the benefits of the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) for graduation before a student is permitted to take courses under the Minimum High School Program (MHSP). The purpose of this correspondence is to ensure that parents/guardians are informed as to the programs and opportunities afforded to students graduating under the RHSP.

Benefits of graduating under the Recommended High School Program include

- **College readiness** Many colleges and universities minimally require the RHSP for admission. In addition, students ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes from an accredited Texas public high school are eligible for automatic admission to most Texas public universities if they have completed the RHSP or the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).
- **Recognition** The Recommended High School Program seal will be affixed to the Academic Achievement Record (AAR), or transcript, of students graduating under the RHSP.
- **Test results** Research suggests that students who take additional English, math, social studies, and science courses make higher scores on the SAT® or ACT® college entrance exams. The RHSP requires four credits in each of these core subject areas.
- **Program participation** The Texas Scholars program allows students who participate and graduate to be eligible for Graduation Honors and to compete for certain scholarships. Texas Scholars who qualify for financial assistance become eligible for a grant program passed by the Texas Legislature: the Texas Grant program. This *may* provide all tuition and fees for public colleges and universities in Texas; however, grant funds are administered on a first-come, first-served basis. The Texas Scholars program requires students to graduate under the RHSP or the DAP.