

Navigating HB5

What Is HB5 and How Does It Affect My Student?

“HB5,” also known as the Foundation High School Program, adopted in May 2013, is a system of educational paths in which students choose a ‘pathway’ composed of similarly themed courses they wish to pursue in their high school career. The courses should preferably align with the student’s college or career goals. The policy is designed around 5 “endorsements.”

What Is An Endorsement?

An endorsement is a set of classes that create an area of study for your student. Endorsements, and courses to complete an endorsement, will vary by school district. **Ask which endorsements are available in your district. The 5 endorsements are:**



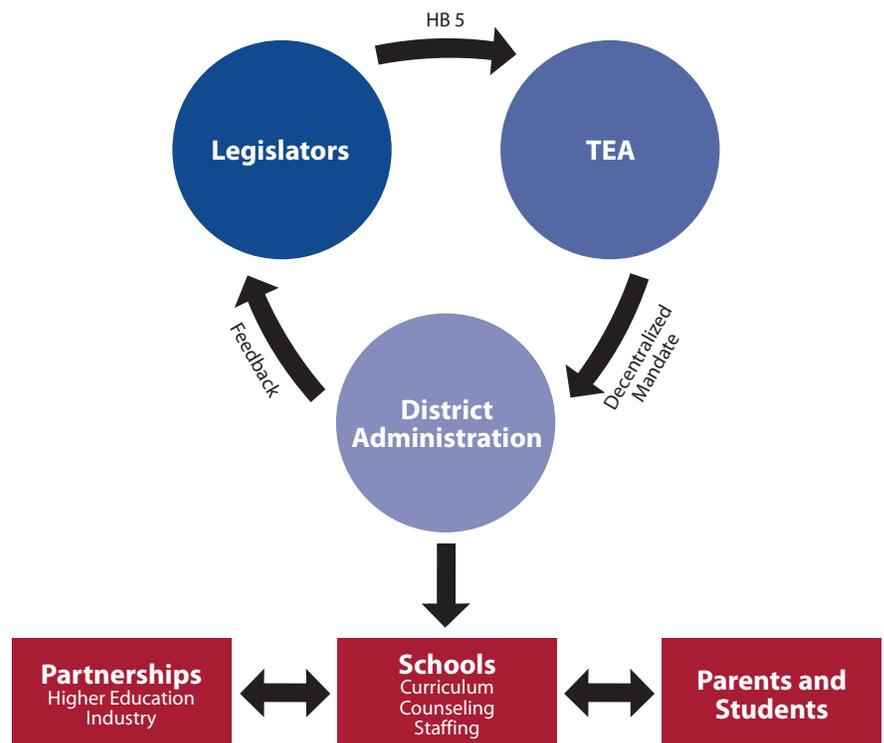
Who's In Charge?

While the legislation dictates the basic structure of the HB5 model, it delegates responsibility for its implementation to the individual school districts.

What Are The Major Challenges?

While school counselors and administrators are doing their best to implement the changes, most schools have too few counselors to adequately guide each student and many are still learning how to navigate the complex details of the new graduation plans. Legislators, district officials, and higher education institutions continue to work through fine tuning the alignment between high school courses and college requirements. However, there may be cases where some courses do not align with college requirements.

Colleges and universities still have their own requirements for acceptance. You must verify that any CTE (career-technical) course or endorsement course replacing a previous '4x4' plan course will be accepted. This applies especially to math and science courses.



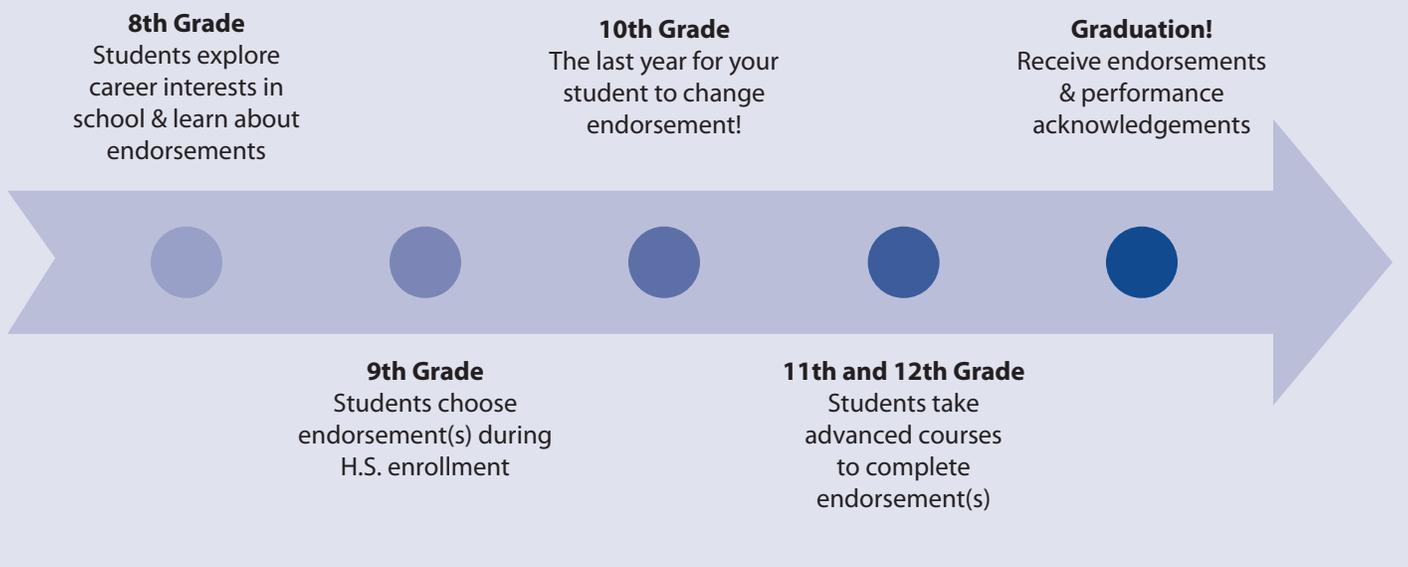
5 Questions You Can Ask Your Student's Principal and Counselor In Order To Effectively Advocate On Behalf Of Your Student

- What options are available from this school for my child? What is the full range available in this district?
- How will my student benefit from taking Algebra II, Statistics or Algebraic Reasoning? Which one will best fit their college/career goals? (*Students under the distinguished graduation plan must take Algebra II.*)
- Which math and science courses are colleges/universities still requiring for admittance?
- What are 'performance acknowledgements' and how can they benefit my student?
- How does the distinguished plan benefit my student and help with the Top Ten Percent automatic admission?

What Do I Need To Do?

Parental involvement is critical! Remain informed and knowledgeable of the courses your student is taking, as well as the changes to their high school graduation plan. *Don't be surprised at graduation!*

Basic Endorsement Milestone Timeline



Where Do I Go For More Information?

Your local school and school district may have information regarding endorsements on their websites. The **Texas Education Agency (TEA)** also has information on endorsement FAQs — Check the following link for more details:

<http://tea.texas.gov/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx>

Career exploration and post-secondary information is also available through the following public websites:

Texas CARES <http://www.texascaresonline.com>

Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>



Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium

