

High School Endorsements

Endorsement Toolkit
December 2020



The Universe Awaits: Six Steps to Endorsement Success!

Later this year, your eighth graders will select an endorsement and draft a graduation plan to prepare for high school. You can set your students up for success with our endorsement toolkit!

Chock full of activities and content, the toolkit will simplify endorsements and help your students make meaningful decisions. And if endorsements are new for you, or you could use some refreshing, we have that covered too!

Here are six ways this toolkit will demystify endorsements for your students and their families:

1. **Boost your own expertise.** Become the go-to source for knowledge on endorsements, graduation plans, and career pathways with the Texas OnCourse Academy. Enroll in and complete our middle school modules. You'll be prepared to answer any question from your students. Pages 4–5 outline the Academy structure, with relevant modules highlighted.
2. **Help your students with the basics.** Print out our endorsement booklet and share it with parents and guardians. See pages 7–8.
3. **Tell your students and their families about MapMyGrad.** On this interactive website, they will find practical, simple information about the different endorsements, explore the endorsement that fits best, and understand how endorsements link to different careers. Check out pages 10–11 for a two-pager about MapMyGrad that you can print and send home with students.
4. **Dig deeper into MapMyGrad with ten short activities.** Have your students complete the Ten Ways for Students to Use MapMyGrad handout (see pages 13–14). This handout walks students through the MapMyGrad site. At the end of step 10, students will have created a personalized graduation plan to be saved and used for future reference. Page 12 also provides a link to an online version of this handout.
5. **Use our lesson plans for dynamic classroom activities.** Use one or all of our lesson plans to engage your students on endorsements and grad plans. See pages 16–29.
6. **Gamify career planning.** Print out our Choose Your Own Adventure game cards (pages 30–37) for a quick, fun analog activity for students to discover careers aligned with their interests. For digital classrooms, play our interactive career quiz at [txoc.link/CareerQuiz!](https://txoc.link/CareerQuiz) Students will discover the movie character they most resemble – and the career pathways this character could take.

Boost your own expertise.

Become the go-to source for knowledge on endorsements, graduation plans, and career pathways with the Texas OnCourse Academy.

Enroll in and complete our middle school modules, highlighted for you on the Academy syllabus, which you can find on the following pages.



TEXAS ONCOURSE ACADEMY

TEXAS ONCOURSE ACADEMY SYLLABUS

Use the Texas OnCourse Academy to improve your practice, obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits, and become more confident in your abilities. The Academy provides comprehensive training for college and career advising across four content areas: career pathways, financial aid, postsecondary pathways, and specialties.

Users can earn badges and up to 31 hours of CPE credit for completing training modules in the Texas OnCourse Academy, as indicated below.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Career Pathways: Foundational Knowledge – 1 hour

- 📍 Basic Principles of Career Pathways

Career Exploration – 1 hour

- 📍 Career Assessments

Academic Planning – 2 hours

- 📍 High School Personal Graduation Plan
- 📍 Career Clusters, Pathways, and Endorsements

Career Planning - 1 hour

- 📍 Career Outlook

Career Learning Experience – 1 hour

- 📍 Work-Based Learning Experiences

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid: Foundational Knowledge – 1 hour

- 📍 Basic Principles of Financial Aid

Financial Aid Application Process – 3 hours

- 📍 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- 📍 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)
- 📍 CSS Profile

Scholarship Application Process – 3 hours

- 📍 Scholarship Applications
- 📍 QuestBridge National College Match
- 📍 National Merit Scholarship Program

College Cost – 1 hour

- 📍 College Finances

POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS

Postsecondary Pathways: Foundational Knowledge – 1 hour

- 📍 Basic Principles of Postsecondary Pathways

Admission and Application Process – 8 hours

- 📍 ApplyTexas
- 📍 Common Application (Common App)
- 📍 NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Centers
- 📍 Coalition Application
- 📍 Universal College Application (UCA)
- 📍 Military Academy Applications
- 📍 Military Enlistment
- 📍 College Credits

Entrance and Placement Exams – 4 hours

- 📍 SAT
- 📍 ACT
- 📍 Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA)
- 📍 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

Postsecondary Research – 1 hour

- 📍 Researching Postsecondary Options

SPECIALTIES

Transition Advising – 1 hour

- 📍 Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

Advising Highly Mobile Populations – 1 hour

- 📍 Advising Highly Mobile Students

Middle School College and Career – 1 hour

- 📍 Starting Early: College and Career Readiness in Middle School

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TEXAS ON COURSE ACADEMY

Help your students with the basics.

Print out our endorsement pamphlet, included in the following pages, and share it with parents and guardians.



ENDORSEMENT BASICS

by **TEXAS ONCOURSE**

What's an Endorsement?



An endorsement is a set of classes that allows students to dig into an area of interest to them. It's similar to a college major, allowing the student to learn more about a particular subject area.


Endorsements connect to different career paths and are meant to help students get familiar with the sorts of ideas, skills, and abilities related to those careers.

Students choose one or more endorsements out of five possibilities. During high school, they'll complete a certain number of courses to earn credit toward their endorsement. When they graduate, their endorsement(s) will be reflected on their transcript and diploma.

The endorsements are:

 Arts and Humanities  Business and Industry

 Multidisciplinary Studies  Public Service

 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Endorsements give students an early taste of different career options so that they are more prepared after graduating from high school for college and career!

Endorsements in Detail



Arts and Humanities

Do you get excited about learning a new language? Do you dig studying the past and considering how it might impact the future? Do you follow what's going on in the world around you? Do you dream about being on stage or behind the scenes of the school play? Then the Arts and Humanities endorsement might be for you!

Career options include political scientist, art director, economist, lawyer, choreographer, and translator.



Business and Industry

Do you get excited by the idea of starting your own business or playing the stock market? Want to work on construction sites or build websites and IT networks? Does the thought of being a CEO or manager sound cool? Then the Business and Industry endorsement might be for you!

Career options include medical administrative assistant, event planner, construction manager, airline pilot, and financial manager.



Multidisciplinary Studies

If you have too many interests to pick just one endorsement, or you're still deciding what your future might look like, then the Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement might be for you! It will help you graduate as a well-rounded student, ready to go in whatever direction you want.

Career options related to this endorsement include psychologist, security screener, and even CEO!



Public Service

Do you get excited about helping other people or making the world a better place? Want to serve your country or be a police officer? Do you love to teach or work with children? Then the Public Service endorsement might be for you!

Career options include registered nurse, paralegal, emergency management director, teacher, human resources specialist, and marriage and family therapist.



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Do you get excited about building robots, making your own computer games or programs, or crunching numbers to make sure your fantasy football team is dialed? Does the thought of engineering sound cool? Do you do well in math and science classes? Then the STEM endorsement might be for you!

Related careers include software developer, statistician, petroleum engineer, geoscientist, biochemist, and pharmacist.

Important Endorsement Facts



Not all endorsements are offered at all high schools. To find out what endorsements are available at a school, start by checking your district's webpage.



Students choose an endorsement upon entering ninth grade. You can change your endorsement, and you can pursue more than one!



Students can opt out of an endorsement after 10th grade with the written permission of a parent or guardian and advisement from their school counselor.



If you want to graduate from high school with the distinguished level of achievement, one requirement is graduating with an endorsement. You must earn the distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for Texas' Top 10% Automatic Admission law.

More Information and Support

Texas OnCourse has tons more resources for you!

MiddleGalaxy

When you run missions to outer space in this game, you also learn about different jobs in Texas, the skills you need to do those jobs, and the sorts of interests that people in those jobs usually have.

MapMyGrad

On this interactive website, you can take a quiz to see what endorsement may interest you. You can explore lots of different jobs and careers. And you can create a draft graduation plan that includes the classes and endorsements offered at the high school you plan to attend.

Share Your Road

This website is a treasure trove of career stories from real-life Texans. On Share Your Road, lots of different Texas professionals share what their work life is like. They also talk about how they got to where they are and the obstacles they overcame in doing so.

Visit texasoncourse.org/students-and-families for more!

As Texas' definitive resource for college and career preparedness, Texas OnCourse equips middle and high school students for postgraduation success. With Texas OnCourse, all Texas graduates, no matter where they come from or where they're headed, have a plan for what's next. Texas OnCourse is an initiative from The University of Texas at Austin, in partnership with other institutions of higher education, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. For more information about Texas OnCourse, visit texasoncourse.org.

TEXAS ONCOURSE

Tell your students and their families about MapMyGrad.

On this interactive website, they will find practical, simple information about the different endorsements, explore the endorsement that fits best, and understand how endorsements link to different careers. You can print out our informational flier about this resource, found on the following pages, and have your students bring it home.

MAP MY GRAD

by **TEXAS ON COURSE**



For Parents

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND ENDORSEMENTS, CAREERS, AND GRADUATION PLANS!

A free, interactive graduation planning tool, MapMyGrad provides everything you and your child need to choose an endorsement and start building a high school graduation plan.

HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

MapMyGrad helps middle school students zero in on their skills and interests and explore how to get to where they want to go after high school.

With the MapMyGrad GradPlanner, your child can start a graduation plan based on the courses and endorsements offered at their selected high school.

By spending some time with MapMyGrad, you'll be ready for productive conversations about your child's future with their counselor and teachers!

www.texasoncourse.org | Twitter: [@TexasOnCourse](https://twitter.com/TexasOnCourse) | info@texasoncourse.org

FEATURES

With MapMyGrad, you and your child can



Find information about Texas endorsement requirements and career data.



Take a quick, fun quiz to find their best-fit endorsement.



Explore classes with MapMyGrad's Texas Grad Planner.



Bookmark their draft graduation plan or print a copy to discuss with their counselor.

Your child has a bright future ahead. Help them get started on their path to graduation and beyond.

Learn more and explore: texasoncourse.org/tools/mapmygrad

As Texas' definitive resource for college and career preparedness, Texas OnCourse equips middle and high school students for postgraduation success. With Texas OnCourse, all high school graduates, no matter where they come from or where they're headed, have a plan for what's next. Texas OnCourse is an initiative from the University of Texas at Austin, in partnership with the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. For more information, visit texasoncourse.org.



TEXAS ON COURSE

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Dig deeper into MapMyGrad with ten short activities.

Have your students complete the Ten Ways for Students to Use MapMyGrad handout, found on the following pages. This handout walks students through the MapMyGrad site. At the end of step 10, students will have created a personalized graduation plan to be saved and used for future reference.

For an online version of the following pages, incorporate the **10 Steps to a Grad Plan** into your Google classrooms:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IDvg8bqAVTsYFHxhLoCImBBaErcJsacny6GLj0wGtg/edit?usp=sharing>

10 WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO USE MAPMYGRAD

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO HELP CREATE A PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

This guide will walk you through the MapMyGrad site. At the end of step 10 you will have created a personalized graduation plan to be saved and used for future reference.

1) Create an account.

Creating an account with MapMyGrad means you can save graduation plans you create.

Step 1 – Go to mapmygrad.org.

Step 2 – Select Create an Account (or Sign In if you've already set up a Texas OnCourse account).

Don't forget to record your username and password so you can remember for future use.

Username: _____

Password: _____

2) Find out what it takes to graduate in Texas.

Review the About menu, especially the items under The Basics. What's one new piece of information you learned about graduation in Texas?

3) Learn about endorsements.

Read the endorsements page and click through all the endorsements. On the endorsements pages, you meet people in careers related to that endorsement. Who would you most like to meet in real life? What do they do that interests you?

4) Take the quiz.

By taking the MapMyGrad quiz, you can determine how your interests and abilities could help you decide which endorsement is a good fit. What do you think about your results? Do you want to take the quiz again?

5) Find your path.

In the Find Your Path menu, learn about the different jobs you can get and how they relate to each endorsement. Which one most appeals to you? Why?

6) Check out the roadmap to college.

Not all careers require a four-year degree, but most well-paying jobs require some sort of education after high school. If the career you chose requires a bachelor's degree or higher, check out the roadmap. Which step seems the most fun? Which seems the hardest?

7) Read the frequently asked questions.

Choose three questions from the FAQ page that you don't know the answer to. What three questions did you choose? Review the answers and summarize them.

8) Complete the Texas Grad Planner.

Where do you want to go to high school? What courses should you take?

9) Print out your Grad Plan and review it with your parent/guardian and counselor/adviser.

What questions do you have for each of them?

10) Keep a copy ready for your course registration for next year!

Hold on to the printed copy of your graduation plan so that you're prepared to register for your desired courses in high school!

Use our lesson plans for dynamic classroom activities.

On the following pages, we've excerpted three endorsement-related lesson plans from our Middle School Curriculum Guide for you to review and use in your classroom. The full Curriculum Guide includes over 30 TEKS-aligned lessons in compliance with Texas Education Code 28.016, as well as implementation plans for a semester or full year. Download it at page.texasoncourse.org/texas-ontcourse-middle-school-curriculum-guide-registration.

Lesson 3.3: Understanding the Five High School Endorsements

<p>Lesson Overview</p> <p>The lesson has students explore the five endorsements identified by House Bill 5 and the various career clusters and career pathways identified by the Texas Career and Technical Education Resource Center. Student endorsements can change throughout the course of their learning and perhaps over the course of their high school career. This lesson is designed to have the students brainstorm and really think about what they want for their future.</p>	<p>Time Required 80–100 minutes</p> <p>Materials Required</p> <p>For the classroom: Copy of PDF of each of the endorsement summaries per group. See step 2 of the procedure.</p> <p>For the students: Interactive journal Copy of Endorsement Summary handout (following this lesson) Copy of Endorsement Expert handout (following this lesson)</p>
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<p>Foundations</p> <p>TEKS</p> <p>§127.2(c)(2) – The student investigates career pathways in one or more of the 16 career clusters. The student is expected to:</p> <p>(A) research the academic requirements for one or more of the careers in an identified cluster; and</p> <p>(B) research the certification or educational requirements for careers.</p> <p>§127.3(c)(2) – The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:</p> <p>(A) determine academic requirements for transitioning to high school.</p>	<p>Cross-Disciplinary Standards</p> <p>I.C. Problem Solving</p> <p>3. Collect evidence and data systematically and directly relate to solving a problem.</p> <p>I.E. Work habits</p> <p>1. Work collaboratively.</p> <p>II.A. Reading across the curriculum</p> <p>4. Identify the key information and supporting details.</p> <p>5. Analyze textual information critically.</p> <p>6. Annotate, summarize, paraphrase, and outline texts when appropriate.</p> <p>II.C. Research across the curriculum</p> <p>1. Understand which topics or questions are to be investigated.</p> <p>2. Explore a research topic.</p> <p>4. Evaluate the validity and reliability of sources.</p> <p>5. Synthesize and organize information effectively.</p>	<p>Student Competencies for Success</p> <p>Texas Model Student Competencies</p> <p><i>Intrapersonal Effectiveness:</i> Effective executive functioning skills Positive self-concept</p> <p><i>Postsecondary Planning and College Readiness:</i> Awareness of the importance of postsecondary education Understanding the relationship of academics to work, home, and community Motivation to succeed Possession of knowledge and skills to gather information for postsecondary education and career planning</p> <p>HB 1026 Positive Character Traits</p> <p><i>Diligence</i> <i>Perseverance</i></p>
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<p>Enduring Understandings</p> <p>Self-evaluation is an ongoing process and a crucial skill for education, work, and life. Creating a plan for my future is important for preparation to succeed.</p> <p>Essential Questions</p> <p>What skills do I need to gain for future goals and success? How do my educational choices connect with my long-term goals and vision for my life?</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>I can evaluate my own personal goals, skills, and interests. I can research a pathway that aligns with my career and education goals. I can determine how to use my skills and abilities to set myself up for success.</p>

Procedures

- Engaging Focus/Prior Knowledge:** The alphabet game – tell the class that you are going to go around the room asking students to contribute one career that begins with each letter of the alphabet. You will start with A and move through each letter until you get to Z. Ask one student to be your scribe for the list you come up with. Project the list somewhere in class so that everyone can see it. Ask students to think about grouping careers together into bigger categories. Next, ask students to take a minute to come up with categories and have them place careers from your class list into it. Have students share out their answers. Explain that careers are categorized to help people understand their options as they go through school. That process can begin in high school with endorsements. Explain that what they are going to look through next are the endorsements they can choose in high school that begin the process of choosing a category and, eventually, a career path.
(~ 10–15 min)
- Group Activity:** Using the jigsaw format, divide the class up by endorsement. This will be their expert group. The students in these groups will become experts on the endorsement they're focusing on. They will summarize the key points to understanding this endorsement in another group (i.e., their teaching group).
 - Endorsement Expert handouts:
 - [Arts and Humanities](https://tinyurl.com/n2cn7gs) (tinyurl.com/n2cn7gs)
 - [Business and Industry](https://tinyurl.com/yabar5gs) (tinyurl.com/yabar5gs)
 - [Multidisciplinary Studies](https://tinyurl.com/n347udv) (tinyurl.com/n347udv)
 - [Public Service](https://tinyurl.com/m2nty4u) (tinyurl.com/m2nty4u)
 - [STEM](https://tinyurl.com/lrlh3ly) (tinyurl.com/lrlh3ly)After the students have had time to read, discuss, and complete information about their expert area, have them go to their teaching groups.
(~ 30–40 min)
- Group Activity:** While in their teaching groups, students will each get time to relay information about the endorsement they focused on. Make sure they explain slowly so that the other members can copy down important information.
(~ 5–7 min)
- Closure:** Show these five videos about each endorsement to summarize. The students should be encouraged to add to their Endorsement Summary handout or clear up any misconceptions.
 - [Arts and Humanities](https://tinyurl.com/ya5yrbg7) (tinyurl.com/ya5yrbg7)
 - [Business and Industry](https://tinyurl.com/k5dzxda) (tinyurl.com/k5dzxda)
 - [Public Service](https://tinyurl.com/kfpmvsv) (tinyurl.com/kfpmvsv)
 - [STEM](https://tinyurl.com/mq4lpxd) (tinyurl.com/mq4lpxd)
 - [Multidisciplinary Studies](https://tinyurl.com/yasrnkjg) (tinyurl.com/yasrnkjg)(~40 min)

Extension Opportunities for Everyone

Have the students do further research in the endorsement or specific career they are interested in.

To encourage involvement at home, use the “Career Clusters and Endorsements” Family Guide take-home card to refer families to the section that aligns with what you’re teaching in class.

Differentiation and Additional Support Opportunities

- Display relevant academic and content-specific language (e.g., STEM, multidisciplinary, endorsement).
- Offer a graphic organizer that has sentence stems or completed portions for ELL or students struggling to get through the content. This should allow them to better navigate the information.
- Ask GT students to research the well-known figures in the endorsement they are responsible for. Have them create a quick presentation for the class on that person and their contribution to their field.

Formative Assessments/Checks for Understanding

- Ask students to write their own quiz question(s) on their endorsement to pose to the class after presentations. Post

these questions around the classroom and ask the class to choose a certain number of them to answer as their exit ticket.

Reflection/Engagement Strategies

- Ask students to reflect on their vision boards. Is there an endorsement that seems to naturally stand out to them based on what they have so far? If so, explain.
- Have students consider what kind of skills are needed to be successful in any of the endorsements, then have them share out as a class.

Classroom Climate Check for Teachers

- Choose two or three different students to whom you can offer either a public or private “shoutout” about the ways in which you have noticed them extending support, kindness, or empathy to a classmate.

Handout: Endorsement Summary

Arts and Humanities	STEM
Business and Industry	Multidisciplinary
Public Service	My Own Goals <p>What career path or cluster are you interested in after completing this inventory?</p> <p>What new information have you learned that makes you want to investigate more?</p> <p>Where can you go or what resources can you use to investigate further?</p>

Handout: Endorsement Expert

Endorsement:

Summarize the qualities, skills, and interests of someone choosing this endorsement.

Besides the foundation requirements for graduation, what is necessary to complete this endorsement (if there are many options, give at least three).

List four careers that can stem from this endorsement. Also include the different education required, job market growth, and salary/wages.

Lesson 3.4: Endorsement Requirements

Lesson Overview

Instructors should have students complete Lesson 1.2, Investigating Career Clusters and Programs of Study, prior to introducing this lesson. Exploring the five high school endorsements begins the important conversation surrounding career pathways – sometimes called programs of study – and their high school implications for middle school students. The lesson has students explore the five endorsements identified by House Bill 5 and the various career clusters and career pathways that they link to. Student endorsements can change throughout the course of their learning and perhaps over the course of their high school career.

Time Required

40 minutes

Materials Required

For the students:
Interactive journal
Page 6 of [TEA's Graduation Toolkit](http://tinyurl.com/ycoe3kqc) (tinyurl.com/ycoe3kqc)
Pencil/pen
Index cards

Foundations

TEKS

§127.2(c)(2) – The student investigates career pathways in one or more of the 16 career clusters. The student is expected to:

- (A) research the academic requirements for one or more of the careers in an identified cluster;
- (B) research the certification or educational requirements for careers; and
- (C) describe the technical-skill requirements for careers.

§127.2(c)(3) – The student investigates the professional skills needed for college and career success. The student is expected to:

- (A) apply core academic skills to meet personal, academic, and career goals;
- (B) investigate the importance of co-curricular, extracurricular, career preparation, and extended learning experiences; and
- (C) investigate the steps required to participate in a variety of career and educational opportunities, including, but not limited to, entry level employment, military service, apprenticeships, community and technical colleges, and universities.

§127.3(c)(2) – The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:

- (A) determine academic requirements for transitioning to high school;
- (B) explore opportunities for earning college credit in high school such as Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, dual credit, and local and statewide articulated credit;
- (D) discuss the impact of effective college and career planning; and
- (E) demonstrate decision-making skills related to school and community issues, programs of study, and college and career planning.

Cross-Disciplinary Standards

I.A. Intellectual curiosity

1. Engage in scholarly inquiry and dialogue.

I.D. Academic behaviors

1. Self-monitor learning needs and seek assistance when needed.
3. Strive for accuracy and precision.
4. Persevere to complete and master tasks.

II.A. Reading across the curriculum

1. Use effective pre-reading strategies.
2. Use a variety of strategies to understand the meanings of new words.
3. Identify the intended purpose and audience of the text.
4. Identify the key information and supporting details.
5. Analyze textual information critically.
6. Annotate, summarize, paraphrase, and outline texts when appropriate.
7. Connect reading to historical and current events and personal interest.

II.B. Writing across the curriculum

1. Write clearly and coherently using standard writing conventions.

II.C. Research across the curriculum

1. Understand which topics or questions are to be investigated.
2. Explore a research topic.
4. Evaluate the validity and reliability of sources.
5. Synthesize and organize information effectively.

Student Competencies for Success

Texas Model Student Competencies

Intrapersonal Effectiveness:

Effective executive functioning skills
Positive self-concept

Postsecondary Planning and College Readiness:

Awareness of the importance of postsecondary education
Understanding the relationship of academics to work, home, and community
Motivation to succeed
Possession of knowledge and skills to gather information for postsecondary education and career planning

HB 1026 Positive Character Traits

Diligence

Perseverance

	II.E. Technology 1. Use technology to gather information. 2. Use technology to organize, manage, and analyze information. 4. Use technology appropriately.	
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Enduring Understandings

Awareness of one’s hobbies and interests can lead to a career path later in life.
 Self-evaluation is an ongoing process and a crucial skill for education, work, and life.
 Creating a plan for my future is important for preparation to succeed.

Essential Questions

How can I connect my interests and hobbies to future career paths?
 What skills do I need to gain for future goals and success?
 How do my educational choices connect with my long-term goals and vision for my life?

Learning Objectives

I can evaluate my own personal goals, skills, and interests.
 I can research a pathway that aligns with my career and education goals.
 I can determine how to use my skills and abilities to set myself up for success.

Procedures

1. **Engaging Focus/Prior Knowledge:** Put students into groups of three or four. Tell them they are going to play a game similar to headbands with some of the careers they learned about with the endorsement choices. Give each group a set of index cards, face down, with a career from the endorsement videos in the prior lesson. Tell the groups to take turns choosing one card and placing it on their forehead with the word out. Their group will give them clues about what’s on the card without saying the word. You can make this more competitive by offering an incentive to the group that gets the most correct.
 (~ 7-10 min)

2. **Independent Activity:** Go through [page 6 of TEA’s Graduation Toolkit](https://tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq) (tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq) and have students answer the questions below to guide the discussion about choosing an endorsement. They can answer out loud and record their answers in their interactive journal.
 - a. What interests you about this career field?
 - b. Have you researched your career field?
 - c. What endorsements are offered at your school? Remember that schools are not required to offer all five endorsements.
 - d. After you select an endorsement, it becomes an official part of your high school personal graduation plan. Your parents/guardians must sign off on your choice and provide their consent for your chosen endorsement.
 - e. Having trouble choosing an endorsement? Here are some options:
 - i. Earn the multidisciplinary endorsement
 - ii. Work toward earning more than one endorsement
 (~ 7-10 min)

3. **Introduction of New Material:** Read this to students as it’s written: “Most likely, you will be completing your high school personal graduation plan during your eighth grade year. However, you may change your mind after you get to high school and start working on classes for your endorsement. Never fear! You can change your endorsement at any time – we will discuss these steps below.” Describe the process for modifying their high school personal graduation plan.
 - a. Students will need a parent/guardian signature to amend, change, or add an endorsement. Students have to wait until after their sophomore year to opt out of earning an endorsement.
 - b. Students can change endorsements at any time.

- c. Students can earn more than one endorsement by adding another before their junior year.
- d. To opt out of an endorsement and graduate on the Foundation High School Program, students must note the following:
 - i. They must do so after completing sophomore year
 - ii. They must do so in writing and with parent/guardian consent
 - iii. They will not be eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admission
 - iv. They may have missing coursework or college admission requirements
 - v. They will not get the opportunity to explore interests through an endorsement
- e. Explain to students what the Foundation High School Program is (with endorsements, it is a flexible program that allows students to pursue their interests). The program contains four parts
 - i. A 22-credit foundation plan, which is the core of the Texas high school diploma program
 - ii. Five endorsement options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
 - iii. A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
 1. This option requires more math and science than the Foundation High School Program.
 2. It requires a total of four credits in math, including Algebra II.
 3. It requires a total of four credits in science.
 4. It requires successful completion of an endorsement.
- f. Performance acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement in specific areas.
 - i. Any student can earn a performance acknowledgment by completing or accomplishing one of the following:
 1. Dual credit courses
 2. Bilingualism and biliteracy
 3. PSAT, ACT Aspire, SAT or ACT
 4. Advanced Placement exams
 5. International Baccalaureate exams
 6. Earning a business or industry certification or license recognized at the state, national, or international level

(~ 10 min)

4. **Closure:** The students will need time to process all the information from the lecture and discussions. Have the students choose one of the following ways to process in their interactive journal:
 - Note, edit, and summarize – have the students go back and complete their notes, highlight key facts, and fill in gaps by asking other students or yourself (example: ask three, then me). Once they feel they have all the information, have them create a summary.
 - Fictional diary – have the students create a diary entry from a fictional character’s perspective about going through the transition from middle school to high school. Make sure they include all necessary steps.
 - Timeline or roadmap of events – have the students summarize their notes through a timeline or roadmap of how they think their transition from middle school to high school will go.
 - Mind map – allow the students to create a mind map that shows how they represent this information and where they think this process will take them.

(~ 15 min)

Extension Opportunities for Everyone

Allow the students to present their closure activities. Have the class complete a gallery walk or choose a few students who want to present a walk.

Alternatively, have the students write up an exit ticket of your choice. Here are a couple of options:

- So what, what, now what – so what are two things they learned, what will they do with this information, and now what are any questions they have?
- 3-2-1 summary – what are three things they learned that they didn’t know before, two things they had misconceptions about, and one important point?

Differentiation and Additional Support Opportunities

- Display relevant academic and content specific-language (e.g., endorsement, baccalaureate).

- Provide a reading guide or graphic organizer for ELL and struggling students to organize the information they are reading so that they can participate in the conversation that follows.
- Ask GT students to pair up with the biographies they created on a well-known figure from the previous lesson. Have them brainstorm what the two figures would discuss if they went to dinner. Allow them to share with the class.

Formative Assessments/Checks for Understanding

- Fist to Five – have students indicate on a scale of 0–5 using their fist and fingers how comfortable they feel about the process of selecting an endorsement and creating a high school personal graduation plan.

Reflection/Engagement Strategies

- Have students write a letter to their future self about how they are currently feeling about the process of selecting an endorsement and creating a high school personal graduation plan, including their feelings about transitioning to high school. They can be as creative as they want in designing the letter. They can take the letters home to their parents/guardians, or they can store the letters in a safe place until the middle or end of their freshman year, when at that point, they can read the letter and reflect on the growth and progress they've made.

	information effectively. II.E. Technology 1. Use technology to gather information. 2. Use technology to organize, manage, and analyze information. 4. Use technology appropriately.	
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Enduring Understandings

Self-evaluation is an ongoing process and a crucial skill for education, work, and life.

Creating a plan for my future is important for preparation to succeed.

Essential Questions

What skills do I need to gain for future goals and success?

How do my educational choices connect with my long-term goals and vision for my life?

Learning Objectives

I can evaluate my own personal goals, skills, and interests.

I can research a pathway that aligns with my career and education goals.

I can determine how to use my skills and abilities to set myself up for success.

Procedures

- Engaging Focus/Prior Knowledge:** Give each student a sticky note, and ask them to predict which endorsement is the best fit for them. Do not allow them to share with the class yet. Tell them that even if they are incorrect, this is a good way to see how connected they are to their interests and the endorsement selection process.
 (~ 3 min)
- Independent Activity:** The students will take the [MapMyGrad interest quiz](https://tinyurl.com/MMGquiz) (tinyurl.com/MMGquiz). This quiz will suggest which endorsement they would be best suited to study in high school. Have students turn to a partner and share whether or not their prediction matched the results of the quiz. You could even take a quick poll by a show of hands to see how many were accurate.
 (~ 5 min)
- Group Activity:** Have the groups follow the guided questions on the Interests and Endorsements handout.
 (~ 5 min)
- Independent Activity:** Using the Self-Portrait handout, have the students create a character portrait of themselves as a high school student with notes and illustrations added about their endorsement, coursework, extracurriculars, etc.
 (~ 10-15 min)
- Closure:** Discuss high school endorsements with the students. Emphasize that they are still developing and that their opinions and interests will change over time. That's okay. They should explore their options at this early stage in middle school. The students can organize their self-portraits by endorsement around the classroom so that the students will see what everyone else is interested in by the end of the week.
 (~ 20 min)

Extension Opportunities for Everyone

Have students present their portraits to the class through a gallery walk. Allow students time to explain their portrait to their audience.

Differentiation and Additional Support Opportunities

- Display relevant academic and content-specific language (e.g., endorsement, suited, extracurriculars).

- Allow ELL and struggling students to use visuals or copy and paste their responses onto the Interests and Endorsements sheet.
- Allow ELL and struggling learners to use visuals to complete their Self-Portrait handout, but have them still verbally present what they chose.
- Encourage GT learners to choose phrases or visuals that have deeper meaning on their Self-Portrait handout.

Formative Assessments/Checks for Understanding

- A Pair-Share in step two allows you to see if your students need to take the quiz again before moving onto the next portion of the lesson.

Reflection/Engagement Strategies

- Ask students to create a quick visual of their understanding of their personal growth during these lessons. They can have one visual represent the amount of self-awareness they had before Lesson 1: My Vision, one for this lesson, and one or two more represent something in-between. This can consist of a quick draw or visuals copied from the internet. Ask the class to share with a partner or in a group of three.

Handout: Interests and Endorsements

Write your answer from the MapMyGrad interest quiz and explain why you liked that answer best.

1. If you could be on a TV show which would it be?

2. Would you rather...

3. If I wrote a "How To" book...

4. If you could be one of the following when you grow up...

5. If your Instagram account reflected...

6. If you could shadow an expert...

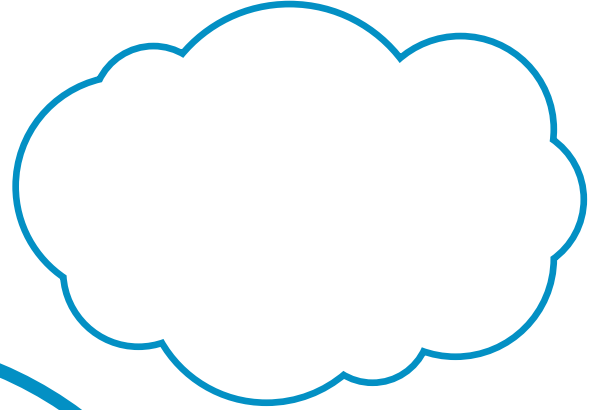
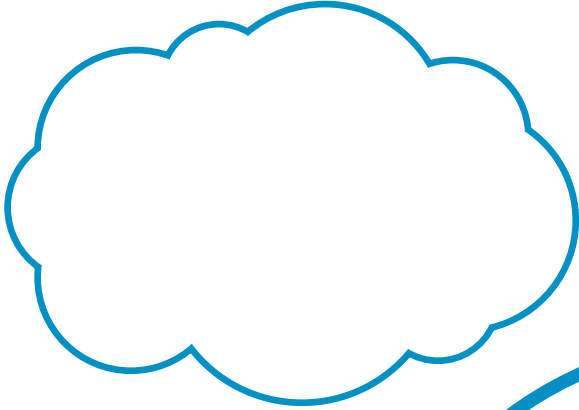
What were your results? Give a brief description.

Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

Handout: Self-Portrait

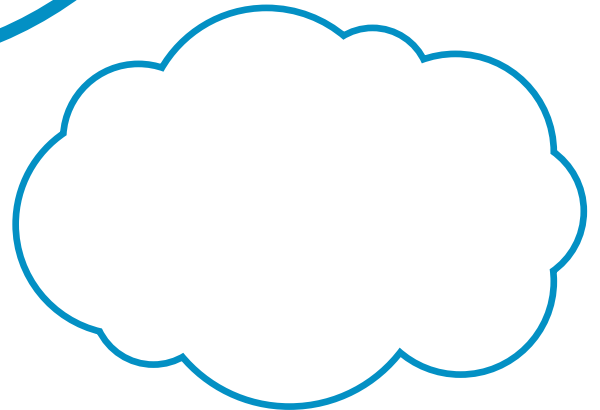
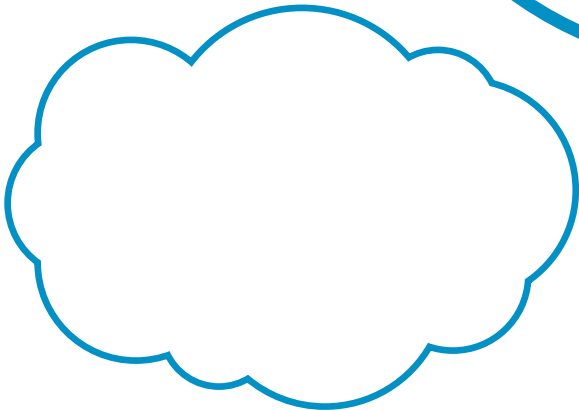
Where do I want to go?

What skills do I have now that I want to expand and learn about?



What courses, tests, and paths are required for my career?

What things do I want for my future and what financial planning do I need to do?



Gamify career planning.

Print out our Choose Your Own Adventure game cards, included in the following pages, for a quick, fun analog activity for students to discover careers aligned with their interests.

For digital classrooms, play our interactive career quiz at txoc.link/CareerQuiz! Students will discover the movie character they most resemble – and the career pathways this character could take.

WE HAVE

A PLAN

FOR WHAT'S NEXT

CHOOSING WHAT'S NEXT SHOULD BE AN ADVENTURE.

As you help students and families navigate their path to greatness, these cards are another tool to put in your arsenal. They can easily be printed on colored paper or white paper. (We've included icons on the different paths to help you!)

1

Lay out all 15 interest cards (with banner at top) on the table and have your student pick the cards that best reflect their interests.

2

Look at the cards they've chosen to see which color or icon is most often represented.

3

Once finished, coach your student. Perhaps say, "It seems like you have a lot of <insert color> or <insert icon>. Let's take a look at that path."

4

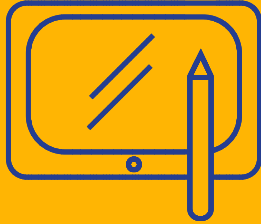
Pick the School Path card and the Career Path card that correspond to the color or icon and walk through the suggested careers, required training, and average salaries. This will help guide a personalized chat with your student.

5

Talk about next steps. Ideas for next steps might be classes to take, people they should talk to, etc.

6

If another color or icon appeared frequently, explore that path as well.



Arts and Humanities

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- ▶ Social Studies
- ▶ 4 levels in the same LOTE
- ▶ American Sign Language (ASL)
- ▶ Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- ▶ English electives not included in Business and Industry

TEXASONCOURSE

I like to make stuff,
whether it's food or art.
Some things I like are:

Baking or cooking

Painting or drawing

Fashion

Photography



I notice details about things
and people everywhere I go.
Some things I like are:

Taking photos of cool things I see

Following detailed instructions
to create stuff

Solving complex problems



I like to read anything
I can get my hands on.
Some things I like are:

Creative writing

Speaking in other languages

Playing music or singing





Multidisciplinary Studies

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ **4 advanced courses** from other endorsement areas
- ▶ **4 credits** in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- ▶ **4 credits** in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE, or fine arts

TEXAS ONCOURSE

I like to try new things like:

Ordering something I've never tried at a restaurant

Meeting people from different countries

Listening to music I've never heard before



I like to work with my hands or move around rather than sitting at a desk. Some things I like are:

Camping

Fixing anything that's broken

Walking my dog



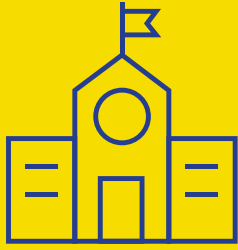
I make friends easily. These are things you could totally find me doing:

Talking with new people at parties where I don't know everyone

Thinking about traveling the world

Organizing get-togethers with friends





Public Service

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Human Services
- ▶ Health Science
- ▶ Education and Training
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Public Safety
- ▶ Government and Public Administration
- ▶ Corrections and Security
- ▶ Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

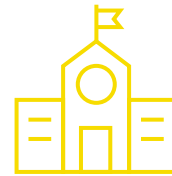
TEXAS  COURSE

I think a lot about issues affecting our world and what to do about them, like:

Natural disasters

Crime

Health care

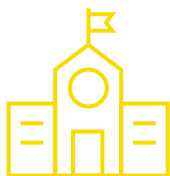


I'd do pretty much anything for my friends and family. Some of my favorite things are:

Babysitting or playing with kids

Studying with my friends

Volunteering

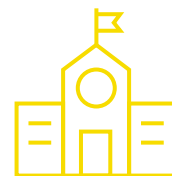


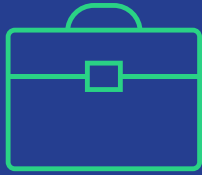
I'm a people person and tend to be the life of the party. You might find me:

Hanging out with my friends

Playing sports

Planning parties





Business and Industry

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- ▶ Architecture and Construction
- ▶ Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communication
- ▶ Business Management and Administration
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Hospitality and Tourism
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ Technology Applications
- ▶ Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- ▶ English electives in:
 - advanced broadcast journalism
 - debate
 - public speaking

TEXAS  COURSE

My teachers have said I'm detail-oriented. You might find me:

Playing number games like sudoku

Baking

Playing statistics-based games like fantasy football



Because I am a go-getter and like to win, I like:

Playing sports

Getting into debates

Making money



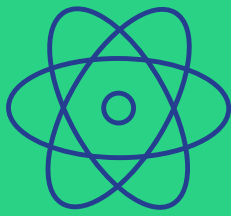
Because I like to be in charge, I've been:

The captain of a sports team

On student council

Head of an extracurricular group





Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- ▶ Computer Science
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

TEXAS  COURSE

I like hanging out with my friends,
but I also like to be alone.
Some things I like are:

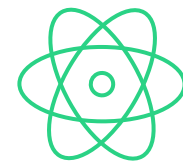
Playing video games



Figuring out how stuff works



Hanging out at the park or the zoo



When I'm not in school, I like:

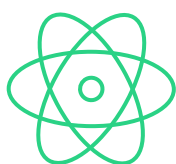
Playing chess or other strategy games



Learning a new skill from a
YouTube video



Making contraptions out of
household items



Because I tend to be pretty
curious about the world, the books
and shows I like are about:

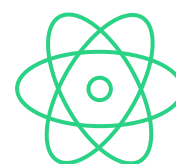
Space and the unknown



Health and medicine



Solving problems



A CAREER IN Multidisciplinary Studies



TEACHER

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$46K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years)

PERSONAL TRAINER

Average Base Salary Range: \$42K–\$71K

Degree required: High school diploma, certification

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$66K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) plus doctoral degree (3 years)

OTHER IDEAS

Possible with High School Diploma or Technical School:

Clerical officer
Executive assistant
Paramedic

Possible with Bachelor's Degree:

Anthropologist
Geographer
Clergy
Communications officer
Journalist
Human resources manager
Translator
Training officer
Registered nurse

Possible with Graduate School:

Healthcare officer
Lawyer
Physician assistant

TEXASONCOURSE

A CAREER IN Arts and Humanities



GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$47K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) in graphic design

WRITER (Copywriter/Journalist/Author/Grant Writer)

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$53K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) in English or liberal arts

FILM (Screenwriter, Director, Videographer, etc.)

Average Base Salary Range: \$41K–\$84K

Degree required: Associate degree (2 years) or bachelor's degree (4 years) in film, cinema studies, or related topics (3 years)

OTHER IDEAS

Possible with High School Diploma or Technical School:

Chef
Fashion designer
Photographer
Poet
Film editor

Possible with Bachelor's Degree:

Architect
Dancer
Fine artist (painter, sculptor, illustrator)
Interior designer
Teacher
Web developer

Possible with Graduate School:

Counselor
Therapist (Art/Music/Drama)
Professor of humanities in subjects like English or history

TEXASONCOURSE

A CAREER IN Public Service



ARMED FORCES

Average Base Salary Range: \$19K–29K/year

plus other allowances

Degree required: Enlisted soldier=high school diploma; Officer=4-year degree

LAWYER

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$112K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) and law degree (JD, 3 years), bar exam

SOCIAL WORKER

Average Base Salary in Texas: \$54K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years), internship, and (optional) master of social work (MSW)

OTHER IDEAS

Possible with High School Diploma or Technical School:

Customer service rep
Executive assistant
Firefighter
Fitness trainer
Paramedic
Nurse

Possible with Bachelor's Degree:

Community organizer
Librarian
Clergy
Nutritionist
Teacher
Education administrator
Foreign service
Human resources manager
Policymaker

Possible with Graduate School:

Counselor
Policy Analyst
Researcher or Social Scientist

TEXASONCOURSE

A CAREER IN Business and Industry



MARKETING (PR or Brand Manager, Digital Marketing)

Average Base Salary Range in Texas: \$51–103K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) and (optional) internship

CPA/ACCOUNTANT

Average Base Salary Range in Texas: \$60K–\$70K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree in accounting, optional master's in accounting or finance, CPA exam

BANKING (Auditor, Broker, Financial Analyst)

Average Base Salary Range in Texas: \$57K–\$64K

Degree required: Bachelor's degree (4 years) in economics, statistics, finance or accounting

OTHER IDEAS

Possible with High School Diploma or Technical School:

Construction supervisor
Customer service rep
Entrepreneur
Farmer
Fitness trainer
Sales

Possible with Bachelor's Degree:

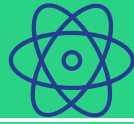
Architect
Business owner
Education administrator
Human resources manager
Investment specialist
Management consultant
Operations analyst
Publicist
Teacher

Possible with Graduate School:

College Professor
Doctor
Lawyer

TEXASONCOURSE

A CAREER IN STEM



SOFTWARE DEVELOPER/ENGINEER

Average Base Salary

in Texas: \$78K

Degree required:

Bachelor's degree
(4 years) in computer science,
computer information
systems, software engineering,
or mathematics

DOCTOR

Average Base Salary

in Texas: \$200K

Degrees required:

Bachelor's degree (4 years),
medical school (MD or OD,
4 years), and residency
(3 years)

CHEMICAL ENGINEER

Average Base Salary

in Texas: \$79K

Degree required:

Bachelor's degree (4 years) in
chemical engineering

OTHER IDEAS

**Possible with High School
Diploma or Technical School:**

Carpenter
Construction worker
Farmer
Mechanic
Rancher
Tech support

**Possible with
Bachelor's Degree:**

Electrical engineer
Insurance claims processor
Registered nurse
Technical writer

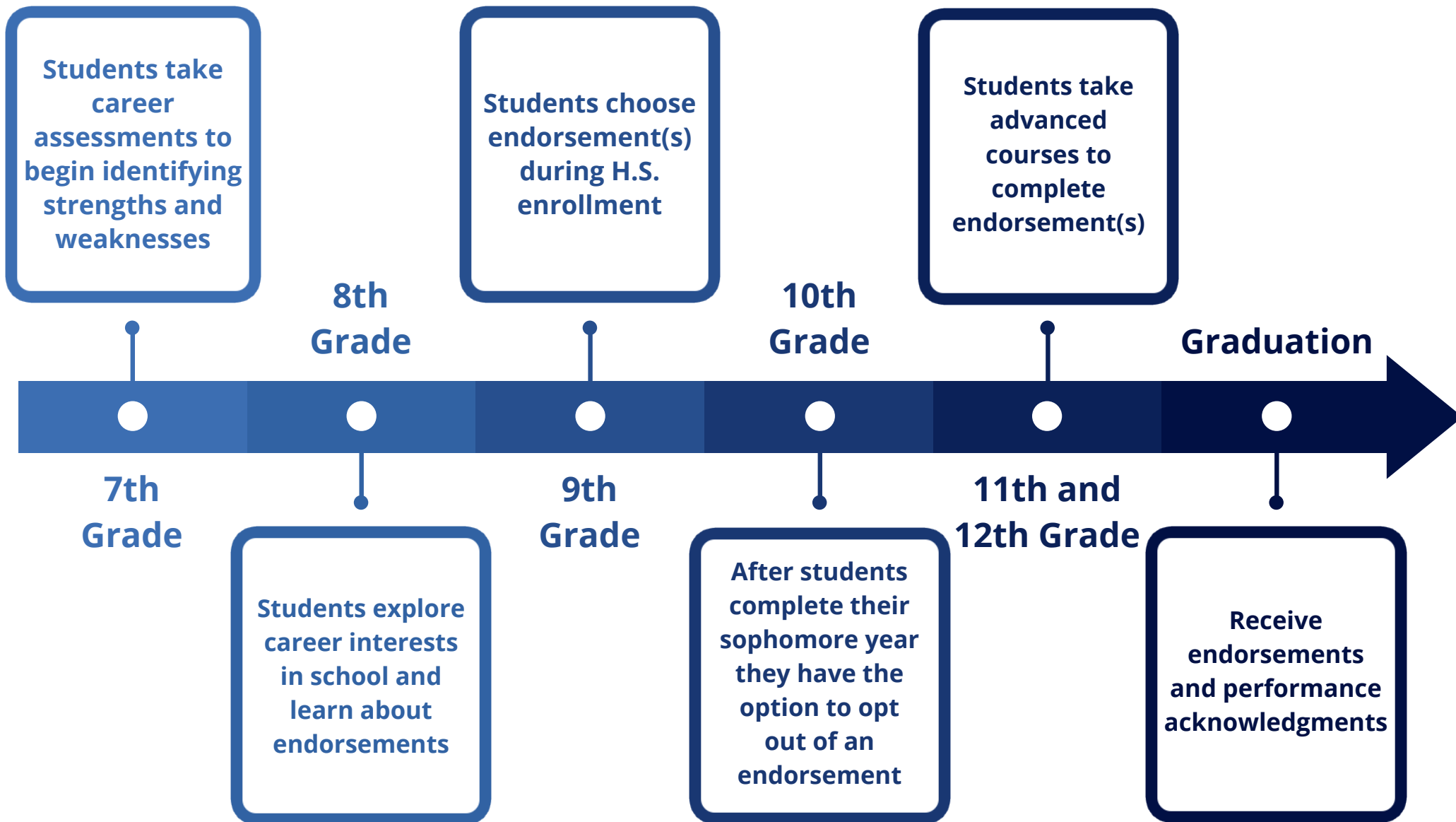
**Possible with
Graduate School:**

Chemist
College professor
Mathematician
Physicist
Wildlife biologist

You've reached the bonus!

We've assembled some of our best print resources on endorsements for you to print out and post on the wall or share with students and their families.

BASIC ENDORSEMENT MILESTONES



FIVE ENDORSEMENT AREAS

Multidisciplinary Studies

(one of the following)

- Four advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- Four credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- Four credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English (LOTE), or fine arts

Arts and Humanities

(one of the following)

- Two levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- Social Studies
- Four levels in the same LOTE
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry

Public Service

(one of the following)

- Human Services
- Health Science
- Education and Training
- Law
- Public Safety
- Government and Public Administration
- Corrections and Security
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

- Career and technical education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Computer science
- Mathematics
- Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

Business and Industry

(one of the following or a combination of areas)

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communication
- Business Management and Administration
- Finance
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Technology Applications
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- English electives in:
 - advanced broadcast journalism
 - advanced journalism
 - debate
 - public speaking

PUBLIC SERVICE ENDORSEMENT, CAREER CLUSTERS, AND PATHWAYS

Endorsement
Area

Public Service
Endorsement

Career
Clusters

Education and
Training

Law and
Public Service

Human Services

Health Science

Science, Technology,
Engineering,
and Mathematics

Career
Pathways

Early Learning
Teaching
and Training

Government and
Public Administration
Emergency Services
Legal Studies

Family and
Community Services
Health and Wellness

Exercise Science
and Wellness
Healthcare Diagnostics
Nursing Science

Biomedical Science

POSSIBLE COURSES BY ENDORSEMENT AREA

This chart gives a sample course-taking sequence for a student interested in becoming a doctor based on their endorsement of choice. This sequence can be tailored to meet district requirements and the needs of individual students.

GRADE LEVEL	STEM	PUBLIC SERVICE	MULTIDISCIPLINARY
9th Grade	Algebra 1 Biology English 1 US History Computer Science 1 Additional courses required by district	Algebra 1 Biology English 1 US History Principles of Health Science Additional courses required by district	Algebra 1 Biology English 1 US History Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness Additional courses required by district
10th Grade	Geometry Chemistry English 2 US Government and Economics Computer Science 2 Additional courses required by district	Geometry Chemistry English 2 US Government and Economics Medical Terminology Additional courses required by district	Geometry Chemistry English 2 US Government and Economics Principles of Health Science Additional courses required by district
11th Grade	Algebra 2 Physics English 3 World Geography or World History Computer Science 3 Additional courses required by district	Algebra 2 Physics English 3 World Geography or World History Health Science Theory Additional courses required by district	Algebra 2 Physics English 3 World Geography or World History Counseling and Mental Health Additional courses required by district
12th Grade	AP [®] Calculus AB (or other advanced math course) Anatomy and Physiology (or other advanced science course) English 4 AP Computer Science Additional courses required by district	Algebraic Reasoning (or other advanced math course) Food Science (or other advanced science course) English 4 Practicum in Health Science Additional courses required by district	Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving AP Biology English 4 Practicum in Health Science Additional courses required by district
Other Required Courses	AP Calculus BC (or advanced math course) Advanced Biotechnology (or other advanced science course)	Mathematical Models with Applications (or other advanced math course) Medical Microbiology (or other advanced science course)	

CAREER CLUSTERS AND CAREERS

CAREER CLUSTER	DESCRIPTION
Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	Agricultural Science Teacher Veterinarian Forest Fire Fighter
Architecture and Construction	Architect Brickmason or Cement Mason Electrician or Plumber
Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications	Graphic Artist Art, Theatre, or Music Teacher Newspaper Reporter
Business, Marketing, and Finance	Accounting Clerk Financial Manager Company Executive (CEO, CFO)
Education and Training	School Counselor or School Psychologist Teacher or Teacher's Aide College Advisor
Finance	Actuary Appraiser Financial Institution Manager (Banker)
Government and Public Administration	Government Investigator (FBI, CIA, DEA) Public Works Director City or Town Manager
Health Science	Dietician Athletic Trainer Pharmacist
Hospitality and Tourism	Recreational Leader Camp Counselor Travel Agent
Human Services	Child Care Worker Recreational Worker Rehabilitation or Substance Abuse Director
Information Technology	Computer System Engineer, Analyst, or Architect Database Administrator Network Systems Analyst
Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	Attorney or District Attorney Corrections Officer Court Reporter or Clerk
Manufacturing	Machine Operator Welder Cabinetmaker or Furniture Maker
Marketing	Real Estate Agent or Manager Real Estate Appraiser Fashion or Floral Designer
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	Anthropologist Physicist Environmental Scientist
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	Commercial Pilot Air Traffic Controller Transportation Specialist