

Distinguished Achievement Program

This program is based on students completing the 26-credit Distinguished Achievement Program outlined on the previous pages and additional criteria as listed below.

Purpose of The Program The Distinguished Achievement Program recognizes the students who demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students or work done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry, or in community service.

- Advanced measures focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level.
- Student performance is assessed through an external review process.

Students **must** complete the requirements found in 19 TAC §74.13 **and** receive any combination of four of the following advanced measures (examples: two AP examinations and two college courses or four AP examinations). Advanced measures include the following:

Original research/project that is:

- judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project;
- conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience;
- related to the required curriculum set forth in §74.1 of this title (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills).

Original research/project may be proposed by the student, but must be approved by and developed under the guidance of a KISD faculty member.

Test data where a student receives:

- a score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement examination;
- a score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination;
- a score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of The College Board; or as part of the National achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.

College courses:

- College academic courses and tech-prep articulated college courses with a grade of 3.0 or higher.

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Students are required to complete the Recommended High School Program. They must also take a level three credit of a language other than English. Within those credits, students must complete 4 advanced measures that reflect work at a college level. In order to achieve this program a combination of four of the advanced measures listed below:

- Earn a score of 3 or above on a college Board AP exam or a score of 4 or above on an IB exam.
- Complete original research or project judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project, or conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience (Limited to 2.)
- A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher.
- College academic courses.
- High school juniors or seniors who earn a grade of 80 or better may count ATC courses as advanced measures for the Distinguished Achievement graduation plan (DAP).
- Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) does not count toward the Distinguished Achievement Program.

