



GUIDANCE INFORMATION

Grades 9-12

Student Classification:

Students are classified as follows:

<u>Units Earned</u>	<u>Classification</u>
0 – 5	Grade 9
5.5 – 11	Grade 10
11.5 – 17.5	Grade 11
18 – 24	Grade 12

Transfer Students

Students new to the El Paso Independent School District are placed at the grade level indicated on their report cards and on transfer papers brought or sent from the previous school. If the student cannot succeed at that grade level, parents will be called in for a conference concerning reassignment.

High schools accept transfer credits for students in Grade 9-12 without further validation from public schools accredited by a state or regional accrediting agency. The District reserves the right to reclassify students enrolling from non-accredited institutions.

Students who have been home-schooled or who have attended unaccredited educational institutions must meet certain requirements in order to receive high school course credits.

Students who have been home-schooled or who have attended unaccredited educational institutions must take the following sections of a released form of the Grade 8 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) in order to be placed in Grade 9: writing,

reading, math, science, and social studies. In addition to the testing requirement, students must also be age-appropriate for Grade 9.

Students wishing to receive transfer credit for courses must validate high school credit for courses by testing or submitting documentation/evidence that the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for those courses have been met.

Credit by examination is required for certain core subjects (English, math, science, and social studies) and cannot be waived in lieu of documentation. Students must pass (70 percent if previous instruction* is documented) a credit by exam (CBE) from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas to receive credit for the core subjects listed. (EPISD credit by exam applications are available in the counseling office.)

In addition, students must pass (70 percent) a credit by exam (CBE) from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas in order to receive credit for the following foreign language courses: French IA, IB, IIA, IIB; German IA, IB, IIA, IIB; Latin IA, IB, IIA, IIB; and Spanish IA, IB, IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB. (EPISD credit by exam applications are available in the counseling office.)

Courses for which the student receives credit will be listed on the student's record as "pass" only and these courses will not be used to compute grade point average. If a student is given credit in a core subject on the basis of a credit by exam, the examination score will be entered on the student's academic record. This score will not be averaged into the student's grade point average.

*Previous instruction – (1) Student has taken and passed a course prior to transferring to EPISD from an unaccredited school; (2) Student has taken a course and failed it (documentation of passing or failing courses is required); and (3) Students who have been in ESL/HILT classes at any time during their school years may be counted as previous instruction if taking CBE in Spanish (documentation is required).

Grade Conversion Scale

The following Grade Conversion Scale is used to convert letter grades on transcripts of students transferring to the El Paso Independent School District:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Score</u>
A	95
B	84
C	77
D	72

Grading Policies

Numerical scores are used in determining student academic achievement. All districts in Texas use a numerical scale of 0-100. A grade of 70 is the minimum for a student to pass a course and be awarded credit. Maintenance of a grade of 70 in each course is required for participation in extracurricular and other activities. Numerical scores are used in all Academic Achievement Records (transcripts).

All credits earned in the high schools of the El Paso Independent School District are based on the semester system. Students having earned credits under any other system must have their credits evaluated and converted to semester credits for calculation toward graduation.

Courses Offered

Not all courses are offered on all campuses. Students must check with counselors or other school staff in order to learn which specialized courses are offered at individual schools.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Pre-AP and Advanced Placement Courses

Able, interested students are given opportunities to do college level learning and achievement through Advanced Placement (AP) courses and examinations. The AP curriculum is tailored to topics and skills needed to pass the AP examination. The AP examinations are given each year in May. A college level textbook and a specified AP curriculum are used. Many colleges and universities grant college credit and/or grades to students who successfully pass AP exams.

A system of weighted grades has been developed for Pre-AP and Advanced Placement courses, which gives additional weight to grades earned in those courses. The weighted grade is used only when determining a student's grade point average (GPA) and is not reflected on the report card. An additional eight points are added to the student's aggregate grade point average for each Pre-AP course; ten points are added for each Advanced Placement course.

Dual Credit Program

Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the Board of Trustees approved the Dual Credit Program. It is a partnership between El Paso Independent School District high schools and El Paso Community College in which students take the joint College/High School credit class and earn both high school and college credit upon completion. *Each*

course of study must have prior District approval and is contingent upon the availability of an instructor.

Please see your counselor for further information regarding the Dual Credit Program.

Articulation

Articulation is a program for high school students that offer them the opportunity to take technical courses for college credit. Students must have passed the articulated courses with a final grade of 85 or above for the articulation to be valid. High school counselors have information regarding articulated courses.

Gifted Education

Students are identified for this program of independent study using five screening criteria: a specific classroom activity, a teacher observation log, a parent checklist, the overall grade point average, and an aptitude test. To qualify for the gifted program, a student must submit all five criteria. Selection will be made by the Campus Screening Committee in accordance with district policies.