



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
& TECHNOLOGY

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDEBOOK

www.SSTschools.org

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Mission

The School of Science and Technology drives academic and socio-emotional development through a college preparatory STEM-based learning model. SST's model is anchored on 21st century skills, embraced by a character-building approach, and delivered in an enriching, safe, and student-centered learning environment.

Non-discrimination Statement as Part of the School's Admission Policy

It is the policy of SST not to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, or disability in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, please contact Section 504/ADA Coordinator at 210 957 1955, located at 5300 Wurzbach Road Suite #800, San Antonio, TX 78238.

Non-discrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs

SST Schools offer support to the school district for career and technical education programs in Arts, Audio/Video Technology, Communications; Health Science; Human Services; Information Technology; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Admission to these programs is based on enrollment in SST Schools.

It is the policy of SST Schools not to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its CTE programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of SST Schools not to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

SST Schools will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and CTE programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at 5300 Wurzbach Road Suite #800, San Antonio, TX 78238, Phone: 210-957-1955.

SECTION I - COLLEGE READINESS

College Geared Coursework (4X4 Plan)

SST's high school program is designed to ensure acceptance, enrollment, and success in four-year colleges/universities and requires the 4X4 course-by-credit plan for all students. Students are expected to complete four full-year courses in each of the four core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

College, Career, and Military Readiness Support

Our goal is to guide every SST student in achieving his or her postsecondary goals and aspirations. CCMR Advisors provide individualized student support in the six areas of the college, career, and military readiness:

- Personal and Social Readiness
- Academic Readiness
- Career Readiness
- Financial Aid and Scholarship
- College Readiness and Transition
- Military Readiness

College Readiness Monitoring

SST implements College Board's College Readiness Benchmarks, College Standardized Assessments (SAT, ACT), and Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA2) Assessments (see Table 1) to track the college readiness of students. Students who meet minimum college readiness scores on these assessments are considered college-ready and will be eligible to enroll in college-level coursework directly.

Test	Combined	Math	Reading / Writing
SAT	N/A	Min. 530	Min. 480 (EBRW)
ACT	>=40	Min. 22	Min. 40
TSIA2 (College Readiness Classification) CRC Test	N/A	950-990 or 950> and Diagnostic Test Score 6 or higher	945-990 Essay score of 5 or higher or 945> Diagnostic Test score 5 or higher

College Board's SAT Benchmark System

Our school utilizes the College Board's SAT Benchmark system (PSAT/SAT) to monitor each student's progress toward college readiness goals. Starting in 8th grade, students take College Board assessments every year. Benchmarks for college and career readiness are set using SAT Suite data and first-year college performance outcomes. Students who meet or exceed these benchmarks are considered on track for success in college-level coursework.

SECTION II - SST HS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For a student to graduate from SST High Schools, the student must fulfill

- SST High School Credit Requirement
- Passing Score on Texas STAAR End of Course Assessments (EOC)¹
- Admission by a 4-Year College
- Minimum 1 (one) Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Credit (DC) Course Completion²
- Minimum 100 Community Service Hours³
- Financial Aid Requirement⁴

SST's High School Program is designed to ensure acceptance, enrollment, and success in 4-year universities. It requires the following course-by-credit plan for all students, regardless of the plan they choose to graduate. Exceptions may apply to students receiving Special Education services..

SST High School Minimum Credit Requirement

Courses	Credit
English	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	4.0
Social Studies & Economics	4.0
Physical Education	1.0
Languages other than English	2.0 ⁵
Fine Arts	1.0
Electives	6.0
TOTAL	26.0 Credits

1. STAAR Substitute Assessments may be used to exempt the tests that students failed to pass.
2. Starting from the Class of 2023. It may be waived for students in special programs by ARD or LPAC committee decisions.
3. The community service requirement is 25 hours per year.
4. In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0256, since the beginning with students enrolled in 12th grade during the 2021-2022 school year, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate:
 - Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
 - Complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
 - Submit a signed opt-out form.
5. To earn Performance Acknowledgement in Bilingualism and Biliteracy, students will need to complete 2 LOTE credits in the

same language.

Speech/Communication Requirement

To receive a high school diploma, a student must demonstrate proficiency in delivering clear verbal messages, choosing effective nonverbal behaviors, listening for desired results, applying valid critical-thinking and problem-solving processes, and identifying necessary skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal/professional presentations.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) for High School Graduation – State of Texas requires all students to receive CPR instruction and training at least once before graduation.

POI (Peace Officer Interaction) – Students who enter grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter are required to receive instruction on proper interaction with peace officers during traffic stops and other in-person encounters before high school graduation.

State Assessment Requirements For Graduation - Students must satisfactorily pass the following STAAR End-of-Course assessments: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, US History.

Required Academic Program for SST High School Graduation

In accordance with House Bill 5, all students are required to choose one endorsement to graduate under the State of Texas Foundation High School Plan. In addition to the statutory requirement, "Foundation High School Plan with Endorsements and Distinguished Level of Achievement" is the default plan all SST students are expected to follow. To earn a high school diploma from any SST High School, each student must fulfill the following core academic requirements:

SECTION III - SST HS COURSE PLAN

CORE DISCIPLINE	SST High School Course Plan FHSP + Endorsements + Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan 26 CREDITS
English (4.0 Credits)	Four credits must consist of the following sequence: 1. Pre-AP English I 2. Pre-AP English II 3. AP English Language and Composition 4. AP English Literature and Composition
Mathematics (4.0 Credits)	Four credits must consist of the following sequence: 1. Pre-AP Algebra I 2. Pre-AP Geometry and Statistics 3. Pre-AP Algebra II or OnRamps College Algebra 4. AP Precalculus 5. For an additional elective credit: AP Calculus AB 6. For an additional elective credit: AP Calculus BC
Science (4.0 Credits)	Four credits must consist of: • Pre-AP Biology • Pre-AP Chemistry • OnRamps Physics or Honors Physics • AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Physics I or AP Physics C (Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB) or AP Environmental Science
Social Studies & Economics (4.0 Credits)	Four credits must consist of • Pre- AP World History and Geography or AP Human Geography (one credit) • AP World History (one credit) • AP US History (one credit) or OnRamps course equivalent. • AP US Government (one-half credit) and AP Macroeconomics (one-half credit) or OnRamps course equivalent or US Government
Physical Education (1.0 Credit)	Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits
Languages Other Than English (2.0 Credits)	Two credits must consist of any two levels in the same language: 1. LOTE I or LOTE II 2. LOTE II or LOTE III (LOTE III is optional) 3. For an additional elective credit: AP Spanish Language and Culture (Prerequisite: Spanish III)

Fine Arts (1.0 Credit)	One credit from any of the following: 1. Art I or Digital Art or Music Fine Art or Dual Credit Fine Art or AP level Art course (AP Studio Art or AP 2D Art)
Pathways (STEM) (3.0 Credits)	The students are allowed to change their pathway, and the 3 credits can be earned from any pathway. 1. PLTW Engineering 1.1. Introduction to Engineering Design 1.2. Computer Integrated Manufacturing 1.3. Aerospace Engineering 1.4. Recommended Related AP 2. PLTW Biomedical Science 2.1. Principles of Biomedical Science 2.2. Human Body Systems 2.3. Medical Interventions 2.4. Recommended Related AP 3. PLTW Computer Science 3.1. Computer Science Essentials 3.2. Foundations of Cybersecurity 3.3. Computer Science Principles. 3.4. Recommended related AP
Electives (3.0 Credit)	One elective credit can be taken from the following courses: 1. For an additional elective credit: (MUST be taken from the following AP courses. AP Capstone Diploma: AP Seminar, AP Research. Arts: AP Drawing, AP 2D Arts and Design, AP 3D Arts and Design. History and Social Sciences: AP Psychology, AP Human Geography, AP European History. AP World Languages and Cultures: AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP Spanish Literature and Culture. Math and Computer Science: AP Computer Science A, AP Statistics, AP Calculus BC, AP Business with Personal Finance, Sciences: AP Biology, AP Physics C Mechanics, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1.

Personal Graduation Plan (PGP)

Students in 8th grade will begin the process of developing a Personalized Graduation Plan (PGP) for the next four years in high school. A Personalized Graduation Plan is a 4-year plan that each student makes to help guide his or her course selection to meet the criteria of the chosen endorsement.

Rigorous Curriculum

SST offers rigorous and relevant coursework with a heavy emphasis on STEM courses that are designed to prepare students for college and beyond.

SECTION IV - COLLEGE BOARD Pre-AP & AP PROGRAMS

College Board Pre-AP Program

SST High Schools are College Board Pre-AP Partner Schools to officially implement the Pre-AP curriculum starting in 8th grade (Pre-AP Algebra I & Pre-AP Biology). The Pre-AP Program offers consistent, high standards in focused courses that help build, strengthen, and reinforce students' content knowledge and skills. Pre-AP courses get students ready for AP and other college-level coursework, and they are designed for all students and to be the standard, baseline course in their particular subjects.

College Board Advanced Placement Program

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program offered by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. US colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the AP exams. AP courses are for any student who is academically prepared and motivated to take on college-level courses. SST supports any student who wants to accept the challenges of an advanced class. Students enrolled in AP coursework are expected to engage in more independent analytical reading, academic discourse, and writing assignments, both inside and outside the classroom.

AP Expectations

Students are expected to complete summer assignments if given by their AP course instructors.

Students are expected to maintain required attendance for classes

Students are expected to attend after-school, practice AP tests, or Saturday tutorial sessions if needed.

Students MUST take the required AP exam at the end of the course.

By registering for an AP course, students are committing the entire length of the course.

Students should understand that registration for multiple AP courses is a commitment to undertaking a challenging academic schedule.

SECTION V - DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

SST partners with local colleges. Dual credit is the term given to courses in which high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school AND college credits at no or low cost. Dual credit courses may be taught on the college campus, on the high school campus, or through a combination of methods.

*Dual credit course(s) availability varies per SST campus.

- Students can graduate from high school with several college credit hours. (College course load is dependent upon the student.)
- More hours can be earned by taking summer courses.
- Upon successful completion of the course, a final grade is posted in two places: High School Transcript (A grade of "D" or better is required to receive high school credit)
College Transcript

Why Dual Credit?

1. Get a Jumpstart on Your College Education

- Affordable. Reduces overall college costs
- Speeds up the time to college degree completion
- Helps to finish many prerequisites and basics before going to college

2. College experience

- Serves as a "controlled" introduction to college life
- Become familiar with the college registration process, policies, and procedures • Students take on the responsibilities of being a college student, easing the transition from high school to college
- Academically advanced students can challenge themselves.

3. Transferability

- Dual Credit Core Courses transfer to Texas Public Colleges & Universities with a C or higher. (Always check with the school you want to attend about transfer credits) • Many private & out-of-state schools also accept credit, but you should check first.

SECTION VI - ENDORSEMENT

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

PLTW courses are nationally standardized, project-based courses that prepare students for college-level work and their career paths. PLTW curriculum empowers students to solve real-world challenges through engaging and hands-on learning projects. SST offers PLTW programs in three career pathways: Engineering, Biomedical Science, and Computer Science. Program offerings vary by campus.

PLTW Engineering

Available under the STEM endorsement – Engineering pathway courses teach students to develop the problem-solving mindset of an engineer. Throughout the four-year course work, students will engage in real-life challenges such as designing a home or programming a robotic arm. SST Engineering Course Sequence: PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design; PLTW Civil Engineering and Architecture; PLTW Aerospace Engineering.

PLTW Biomedical Science

Available under the STEM endorsement – Biomedical Science pathway courses allow students to see themselves in the role of biomedical professionals as they solve real-world challenges, such as preventing, diagnosing, treating disease, and investigating the death of a fictional person. SST Biomedical Science Course Sequence: PLTW Principles of Biomedical Science; PLTW Human Body Systems; PLTW Medical Interventions.

PLTW Computer Science

Available under the STEM endorsement – Programming and Software Development pathway courses empower students with in-demand knowledge and skills they will use in high school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they choose. SST Programming and Software Development Course Sequence: PLTW Computer Science Essentials; PLTW / AP Computer Science Principles.

SECTION VII - GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Classification

Freshman: Any student who has completed fewer than 6 high school credits and is working to earn at least 6 high school credits at the beginning of the school year will be ranked as a Freshman.

Therefore, Accelerated track students taking all 9th grade courses within the same year will be counted in their ranking and GPA. However, advancing in the course selection process does not change their graduation year.

Sophomore: Must have satisfactorily completed at least 6 credits.

Junior: Must have satisfactorily completed at least 13 credits.

Senior : Must have satisfactorily completed at least 19 credits.

Progression Plan

A high school student who fails one semester and passes the other semester of a two-semester course, the student will earn one whole credit if the average is 70 or above for both semesters combined.

Awarding Lower-Level LOTE Credit

The district shall implement a locally approved policy, in accordance with Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidance, allowing students who successfully complete an upper-level course in a Language Other Than English (LOTE) to be awarded credit for the corresponding lower-level course(s).

This policy is available **only within the LOTE subject area**, as LOTE courses are structured by increasing levels of language proficiency. The knowledge and skills from lower-level courses are embedded and demonstrated through successful completion of upper-level courses. Credit awarded under this policy will be recorded on the student's academic transcript and shall count toward applicable graduation requirements.

The proficiency levels and expectations for high school LOTE courses are outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in **19 TAC Chapter 114, Subchapter C**.

Courses Taken Outside of SST High School

All high school credit courses taken outside of SST, including dual enrollment and online courses (excluding credit recovery*), that meet either of the following conditions will be awarded credit but will not receive GPA points:

- 1) The course is not offered on the campus course list during the school year, or
- 2) The course is taken during the summer.

Prior school approval is required before enrolling in any outside course. Courses taken without prior approval may not be accepted for credit. GPA points are earned only for courses taken during regular school hours.

Minimum Course Load and Study Hall Qualification

All SST students are required to enroll in seven classes (or equivalent) per semester.

Exceptions:

1. Students may take MAXIMUM THREE Study Halls if they meet the following

Requirements:

- Enrolled in an online course required for graduation (for credit recovery purposes)
- Approved/recommended by ARD, 504, LPAC, or RTI committees
- Enrolled in at least four college-level courses (AP or Dual Credit only) and on track

with high school graduation credit requirements.

2. Students enrolled in off-campus Dual Credit courses at a local college campus can take the last two periods off in their high school schedules. College course schedule verification and AP Academics approval is required.

3. Students who are in the senior year can take two (2) periods off except the attendance snapshot period in their high school schedules and who have sufficient credits through graduation. Parent consent and AP of CCMR approval are required.

The ways a student can earn credit

- A course is taken as a part of the student's high school schedule (AP or CCMR approval is required).
- A Dual Credit college course is taken for high school credit and college credit (must be one of the approved courses listed on the dual credit list - refer to the Dual Credit Programs at your campus).
- Through a Credit-by-Exam (CBE) offered through the UT Austin or Texas Tech University (See CBE procedures on page 31), AP Exam, or CLEP exam (College Level Examination Program).
- Approved online courses through accredited online course providers.
- Summer School Opportunities.

In order for the school to accept the credit, the school must receive an official email from the awarding institution along with the transcript as an attachment or must receive the transcript in a sealed envelope.

Students and parents assume the responsibility for registering for and completing courses attempted. Students and parents should carefully consider the cost of taking classes outside of their regular high school schedule.

Repeating a Course

The following guidelines apply if a student wants to repeat a course in which credit has been earned:

- No additional credit is earned when a course is repeated.
- Students who have already earned credit for a specific high school course cannot repeat the course to pull up their GPA.

Repeating a Course for Credit Recovery

If a student takes a course and fails, the failing grade is included in his/her cumulative GPA. If the student takes the course again for credit recovery purposes, the new grade (whether passing or failing) is also included in the cumulative GPA.

Credit Recovery Procedures

Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, Edgenuity will no longer be used for credit recovery. Students who fail a course, either due to academic performance or attendance, will have the following options to recover the credit:

1. Credit by Exam (CBE): Students may take a CBE to earn credit for the failed course.
2. Out-of-District Coursework: Students may enroll in and successfully complete the course through any accredited institution outside the district.

If a student is unable to recover the lost credit through either of these options, the student will be required to retake the course during the following school year.

High School Credits in Middle School

By Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.26. (b), districts may offer courses designated for Grades 9-12 in earlier grade levels. Students in middle school may be given high school graduation credit* for passing courses offered in middle school that is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each course. Credit for courses for high school graduation might be earned only if the student received a grade, which is the equivalent or above of 70 on a scale of 100 (TAC §74.26. (c)).

* Credits obtained in middle school will not be included in the GPA calculation and class rank.

*Any student who has completed fewer than 6 high school credits and is working to earn at least 6 high school credits at the beginning of the school year will be ranked as a Freshman. Their credits will be included in GPA calculation and class rank. Advancing in the course selection process does not change the graduation year unless there is a parent request.

Course Selection for Upcoming School Year

Students must choose their courses carefully with the guidance of their CCMR Advisor and parents to minimize the need for schedule changes. Course selection for the upcoming school year requires a parent meeting with the CCMR Advisor and/or designated school staff. Parent participation and approval are required before course selections are finalized. The school will make multiple reasonable efforts to schedule and conduct this meeting, including phone calls, emails, and/or written communication.

If a parent does not respond or fails to attend after documented reasonable efforts by the school, the school reserves the right to finalize the student's course selection and schedule based on graduation requirements, academic needs, and available scheduling options.

The master schedule is developed based on students' approved course selections, and course availability is determined accordingly. A copy of the requested courses will be provided to students at the end of the school year. Any requests for course changes for the following school year must be submitted before the end of the current school year.

Schedule changes based on teacher preference, elective preference, or class section preference will not be honored.

Any schedule change request after course selection must also involve a required parent meeting with school staff. Parent participation and approval are required before schedule changes are finalized unless the parent does not respond or fails to attend after documented reasonable efforts by the school.

The administration reserves the right and has the responsibility to make schedule changes as necessary to meet graduation requirements, balance class sizes, correct administrative or clerical errors, reflect staffing changes, or for other educationally appropriate reasons.

Schedule Change Request

During the first 7 calendar days of a regular course and the first 14 calendar days of an advanced course, students may request a schedule change according to the following guidelines:

All schedule change requests require written communication and approval from a parent or guardian before any change is considered. Written communication may include email, signed form, or other school-approved written documentation. The school will make reasonable efforts to obtain parent communication regarding the requested change. If a parent or guardian does not respond after documented reasonable efforts, the school reserves the right to make the educationally appropriate schedule decision based on the student's academic needs, graduation requirements, and available scheduling options.

Schedule changes may be considered for the following reasons:

- Student and parent request level changes based on course availability
- Placement recommendation based on academic performance
- Medical or health issues requiring schedule adjustment
- Course needed for graduation or college eligibility requirements

Schedule changes based on teacher preference, elective preference, or class section preference will not be

honored.

Students will be responsible for all assignments in newly assigned courses, including assignments assigned before the schedule change. Students must contact their assigned teacher(s) regarding missed assignments and complete all required coursework in a timely manner.

Grading Scale, Class Ranking, GPA

Grade Calculation

A student's Grade Point Average (GPA) is the accumulation of the GPAs calculated by dividing the total amount of grade points earned by the total amount of credit hours attempted for every semester. All semester grades for courses attempted will count toward a student's GPA.

Weighted GPA is used to determine class rank. An unweighted GPA can be used for admission to colleges and universities and scholarships at in-state schools.

Grading Scale

A - 90-100 "Excellent"

B - 80-89 "Above Average"

C - 75-79 "Average"

D - 70-74 "Below Average"

F - 0-69 "Failing"

Grade to Letter Conversion Table for Dual Credit Courses

A+	98	C	77
A	95	C-	75
A-	92	D+	74
B+	88	D	72
B	85	D-	70
B-	82	F	60
C+	79	0	0

Course Weights

Letter Grade	Grade Range	Advanced Placement (AP) / Dual Credit (DC)/OnRamps	Pre-AP / Honors	On-Level Course / PLTW
A	90-100+	5.0	4.5	4.0
B	80-89	4.0	3.5	3.0
C	75-79	3.0	2.5	2.0
D	70-74	2.0	1.5	1.0
F	Below 70	0.0	0.0	0.0

Additional Points to Course Weights

AP Course Weights - (Starting From 2022-2023 School Year)						
Grading Scale	Unweighted	Default GPA Weighted	Passed the AP exam with 5	Passed the AP exam with 4	Passed the AP exam with 3	Didn't Pass or Didn't Take the exam
90 and above	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.75	5.5	5.0
80-89	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.75	4.5	4.0
75-79	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
70-74	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
69 and below	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

PLTW Course Weights - (Starting From 2022-2023 School Year)					
Grading Scale	Unweighted	Default GPA Weighted	Scored Distinguished in PLTW EOC Exam	Scored Accomplished in PLTW EOC Exam	Scored Practiced or Novice in PLTW EOC Exam
90 and above	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.5	4.0
80-89	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.5	3.0
75-79	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
70-74	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
69 and below	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Class Ranking

School of Science and Technology Public Charter Schools are non-ranking schools and will only assign class rank to students within the top 10% of their class, or when doing so is determined to be in the best interest of the student. Class rank reflects how a student's academic performance compares to that of other students in the same class.

Class Rank for College Admissions (Top 10%)

To ensure consistency and transparency in evaluating high school ranking performance, SST will implement a standardized high school ranking timeline conducted twice per year, with an additional run

for seniors. Rankings will be run on August 1st and January 10th for all high school students, and on June 1st for seniors only. Because AP and PLTW test results are released in July and have a direct impact on GPA calculation, we must wait until August to ensure accurate rankings. Senior year AP and PLTW test scores will not impact the final ranking.

Class Rank for Honors Graduation Ceremony

Class rank for honors graduation recognition is determined by the weighted GPA through the end of the first semester of the senior year. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled in the same high school no later than the fall semester of their junior year.

Highest Ranking Graduate

Final class rank for the highest ranking graduate is determined by the weighted GPA of all high school credit courses completed through the end of the senior year. To be eligible:

- Students must be enrolled in the same high school no later than the spring semester of their junior year.
- Students must complete the full senior year at the same high school.
- Students must graduate in no fewer than eight regular semesters.

In the case of a tie, both students will be recognized. The Highest Ranking Graduate Certificate will be awarded according to the following sequence until the tie is resolved.

- The student who has spent four consecutive years enrolled in grades 9–12 at the School of Science and Technology.
 - If a tie still remains, the student with the highest cumulative numerical grade average of all courses taken shall be ranked higher.

Estimated class rankings are to be determined at the end of the junior year and the first semester of the senior year for the express purpose of college entrance requirements.

A student with a disability who has completed four years of high school but not graduating and is continuing to receive special education and related services from the school district is permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony with classmates. The student is entitled to a certificate of completion as part of the graduation ceremony but must receive a regular high school diploma when formal schooling ends.

To be eligible for the class ranking, students must be enrolled for their junior and senior years in the same high school and graduate in no fewer than eight regular semesters.

Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony will happen after the last day of school. Students completing the SST Public Schools and State of Texas requirements for graduation will be granted a high school diploma. SST annually sponsors a graduation ceremony for students who have completed requirements established by both the SST and the State.

All graduation requirements must be met before the graduation ceremony. Ordering a graduation cap and gown, announcements, or other senior memorabilia does not guarantee a student's participation in graduation ceremonies. Graduation announcements are not invitations to the graduation ceremony. If a student does not attend and does not participate in the graduation ceremony practice, the student is ineligible to participate in the SST graduation ceremony. The rank for graduation ceremony status is determined by the weighted GPA by the end of the senior year.

Eligibility for Automatic College Admission

Explanation of Eligibility for Automatic College Admission under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803):

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), Texas students may be eligible for automatic admission to a state college or university as undergraduate students if they meet certain criteria. To qualify for automatic admission, a student must:

- Earn a grade point average in the top 10 percent* of his/her high school graduating class,
- Graduate from a Texas public or private high school (or, if the student is a Texas resident, from a high school operated by the US Department of Defense),
- Earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance OR satisfy ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT college entrance exam OR earn a minimum score of 480 on the SAT EBRW test and a minimum score of 530 on the SAT Mathematics test (no combined score)

- Apply for admission to a state college or university within the first two school years after graduation from high school.

Students who meet the criteria for automatic admission must submit an application before the deadline set by the college or university to which they are applying. Students must also provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates whether they have satisfied or are on schedule to meet the requirements of the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgement for outstanding performance.

Admission and Enrollment

State colleges and universities may admit a student accepted under the Automatic Admission policy for either the fall semester of the academic year for which the student applied or for the summer session that proceeds that fall semester. Additionally, the admitting college or university may require that applicants in need of additional preparation for college-level work enroll in enrichment courses or programs during the summer immediately after the student is admitted. Colleges and universities are required to accept an applicant as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or fatally injured in the line of duty and who meets the minimum entrance requirements set by the college or university.

The University of Texas at Austin

Beginning with admissions for the 2011-2012 school year, The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is no longer required to automatically admit applicants in excess of 75% of its enrollment capacity for first-time resident undergraduate students. The University has determined that it will automatically admit all eligible summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 5% of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review. Even applications from students who are automatically admissible are subject to a holistic assessment to determine the major to which the applicant will be admitted.

Cum Laude System

SST High Schools recognize at graduation those students with weighted GPAs at or above specific benchmarks. Benchmarks may require occasional adjustments as changes in curriculum dictate.

Currently, graduates are recognized as follows:

Summa Cum Laude	A weighted average of 128.0 or higher	GPA = 4.0+
Magna Cum Laude	A weighted average of 120.0 or higher	GPA = 3.8 to 3.9
Cum Laude	A weighted average of 112.0 or higher	GPA = 3.5 to 3.7

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students Transferring from In-State Public School or a Regionally/Nationally Accredited In-State Institution

A student transferring into the district from **an in-state public school or a regionally/nationally accredited in-state institution** will receive the numerical grade earned in courses from that school. Weighted courses will be honored and converted to match our system.

Students Transferring from Schools from Out-of-State, Out-of-Country, and In-State Accredited Private Schools

Per TEA, a school district must ensure that the records or transcripts of an out-of-state or out-of-country transfer student (including foreign exchange students) or a transfer student from a Texas nonpublic school are evaluated and that the student is placed in appropriate classes promptly.

At SST, students from other states, other countries, or in-state accredited private schools -will receive a 'Ps' (Pass) notation for appropriate courses. Course-by-course evaluations of the transcripts by the accredited companies and any costs associated are the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Awarding of credit will be determined by the school administration after reviewing all documentation.

Students from Home Schooling Programs and Unaccredited Private Schools

Per the Commissioner of Education in Texas, under 19 TEC. Section 74.26(a)(2), students

transferring from home schools should be afforded the same treatment as students transferring from unaccredited private schools. Awarding of credit for courses taken may be determined by reviewing the student's curriculum and/or work or using appropriate assessments. When appropriate assessments are used for the determination of placement, the passing standard for those students who have been homeschooled should be no higher than the standard required of students transferring from unaccredited private schools. As the TEA has stated, school districts may assess students by administering valid and reliable assessment instruments. The determination of whether or not to use such instruments is a local matter. Section 28.021 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires advancement or credit to be awarded on the basis of "academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter."

At SST, students from Home Schooling Programs and Unaccredited Private Schools must provide documentation of enrollment and completion of courses. Such students will be assessed using previously released STAAR/EOC and CBE assessments according to their applied grade level. Once the student demonstrates proficiency in those assessments, their credits will be awarded; however, credits earned through homeschooling programs and unaccredited private schools will not be calculated for GPA and class rank by the district. The official passing scores of those assessments will be considered a demonstration of proficiency.

For all the other High School Courses

CBE assessments:

Under 19 TEC. Section 74.24(c), the standard of 70% for students to receive credit for courses they have already taken, should be used as long as either UT Austin or Texas Tech has the appropriate CBE tests. If there is no CBE test for a course, then the credit will be awarded as transfer credit.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

SST requires 100 community service hours as a graduation requirement. The community service requirement is at least 25 hours or more by the end of each year starting in freshman year. Students must enter their community service hours into Schoolinks and track them.

What counts as Community Services:

Volunteering for nonprofit organizations: Activities like working at a local food bank, assisting

in a community garden, or helping out at an animal shelter usually count as community service.

Assisting the elderly: Visiting nursing homes or providing support to seniors in need of help with tasks like grocery shopping or household chores is often considered community service.

Tutoring or mentoring: Volunteering your time to tutor younger students or mentoring peers can be counted as community service hours.

Environmental cleanups: Participating in activities like beach cleanups, park restoration, or tree planting can often be considered community service.

Participating in organized events: Joining charitable walks or runs that raise funds for a cause, like cancer research or hunger relief, is usually accepted as community service.

What does not count as community services:

Paid work: Hours spent at a job where you are being paid for your services typically do not count as community service.

Regular school assignments or extracurriculars: Activities that are already part of your regular school curriculum or an extracurricular activity requirement may not be counted as community service.

Political or religious activities: Engaging in activities that promote a specific political or religious agenda might not be accepted as community service, as it is typically meant to be non-partisan and secular.

Family responsibilities (Family business, Household work, etc.): While helping your family is commendable, community service hours usually involve assisting the broader community outside of your family circle.

Personal time or leisure activities: Volunteering during your own leisure time, such as playing sports with friends or attending a concert, will generally not be counted as community service.

Babysitting/Pet Sitting: These activities will not count towards your community service hours, if they are completed outside of nonprofit organizations.