

Dear Parents,

It is necessary for all students to meet credit requirements for graduation. Currently, there are three graduation programs outlined in the KISD Course Catalog 2005/2006 on page 12. If your child entered as a first time freshman during 2001, 2002, or 2003 then he/she may follow any of the three plans: Katy Scholastic Program, Katy Advanced Program (KAP) or Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP). If he/she entered in 2004 or 2005 as first-time freshmen they graduate under either the KAP or DAP.

There are two types of credit that courses may carry: “state credit” or “local credit.”

Type of credit	What is it?	How does it count?	What else should I know about this credit?	For which plans does it count for graduation?
State Credit	Designated by State of Texas for state approved courses	Counts for graduation	Transfers among districts in Texas	Katy Scholastic Katy Advanced or Distinguished Achievement Program
Local Credit	Approved by a local school district; used for courses designed to meet an identified KISD graduation need or interest.	Used by district to promote students to next grade level; transfers only with the consent of the receiving school district	Counts toward graduation ONLY in Katy Scholastic option; does not count toward graduation in KAP and DAP	Katy Scholastic (2 Local Credits Count)

For graduation under the Katy Scholastic Program, 24 credits are needed, and two of these can be “local credits.” The Katy Advanced and Distinguished Achievement programs require 24 credits. However, **NO** “local credits” can be counted toward graduation in these programs.

Since no local credit courses can be used for Katy Advanced Program or Distinguished Achievement Program, there are some important considerations when you and your child are determining his/her course selection particularly if you are considering **Block Algebra or Spanish 1A/1B**. **Block Algebra** is designed to give students a highly focused and intensive approach towards mastery of the Algebra I curriculum and is primarily for students who have failed the math portion of the TAKS in 8th grade and who have been at or near failing in math. **Spanish 1A** is the first semester of Spanish 1 offered in a one-year time frame. **Spanish 1B** is the second semester of Spanish 1 also offered in a one-year time frame.

BLOCK ALGEBRA (Two-period course each semester)

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	How does it impact advancement?	How does it impact graduation?
Successful completion of this course results in 1 Local Credit	Successful completion of this course results in 1 State Credit	Both credits count toward promotion to next the grade level	Only the one (1) State Credit counts toward graduation as credit toward Algebra I

SPANISH IA

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	How does it impact advancement?	How does it impact graduation?
Successful completion of this course results in .5 local credit	Successful completion of this course results in .5 state credit	The following year, the student must take Spanish 1B	See below.

SPANISH IB

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	How does it impact advancement?	How does it impact graduation?
Successful completion of this course results in .5 local credit	Successful completion of this course results in .5 state credit	The following year, the student must take Spanish II T	It will take 3 years to complete the 2 years of foreign language required for graduation on the KAP. The DAP requires Spanish III.

SPANISH II T

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	How does it impact advancement?	How does it impact graduation?
Successful completion of this course results in .5 state credit	Successful completion of this course results in .5 state credit	This is the final course in the 3 year series	Completion of this series will count as the 2 years of foreign language requirement on the KAP and 2 of the 3 years required for the DAP

It should also be noted if your child takes 4 years of athletics, the third and fourth years are considered local credits. Students participating in study halls, instructional support periods, office aides, TAKS remediation, and senior early release receive NO credits for these programs so please consider this in your planning.

Parents are advised to discuss their child's graduation plans with the high school counselor. This will allow you to make informed choices for your child and to verify the number of credits needed for graduation particularly if your child chooses local credit or non-credit courses (see page 37 of 2005/2006 Course Catalog).