LEANDER ISD

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General

Our family is new to this country and the process feels fast. Who can help?

You can rewatch the webinar recording, review the slides on the Course Selection Hub, and talk with your campus counselor. Attend your campus's January information night for in-depth information. We are happy to follow up with any family who needs more help. For additional help, contact lisd.counseling@leanderisd.org.

Will there additional details related to course-planning available in the future?

Yes. In January, every middle and high school will hold a parent information night with in-depth information on AP and Advanced courses, the course selection process and more, including student panels and breakout sessions. These nights typically start around 6:00 p.m. Dates will be shared through campus newsletters and the feeder middle schools as they approach.

Where can I send more questions?

Start with your campus counseling website, which lists when each grade level meets with counselors, and watch your counseling newsletter. If you can't find the answer, email your campus counselor. For additional help, contact lisd.counseling@leanderisd.org.

Four-year plans, Naviance and counselors

What is the timeline for 7th graders?

The webinar highlighted the 5th-to-6th and 8th-to-9th grade transitions because they are the largest. Your campus can share the 7th-to-8th grade timeline. Counselors meet with 7th graders at their middle school to help them complete their 3-year plan. A student who is not yet enrolled in LISD can request a counselor meeting once enrollment opens.

When do students create a 4-year high school plan?

Eighth graders build their 4-year plans with their counselors. In Naviance, students can start a draft plan at the high school they will attend, and your school counselor can help. If your student is in 7th grade, finish the 3-year plan first; the full 4-year plan comes in 8th grade.

When must the 4-year plan be finished? Are only 9th grade courses locked in?

8th graders' 4-year plans, including 9th grade courses, are due by March 11, 2027. 9th grade courses cannot be changed after March 11. Courses for later years can be updated each year as plans change.

I'm a 9th grader going into 10th. Can I change my courses in Naviance, or do I need to meet with a counselor?

You can revise your 4-year plan in Naviance as often as you like until your counselor has reviewed and approved it. After approval, talk with your counselor to make changes.

Will high school counselors help 8th graders map their four years?

Yes. Eighth graders meet one-on-one with their high school counselor, and plans can change each year.

When will 8th graders meet with a counselor? Can parents attend? Is it one meeting?

It is a series of meetings, not one. Students have a one-on-one meeting with the high school counselor, the high school counselors present to all 8th graders, middle school counselors help students complete their 4-year plans, 8th graders visit the high school (January 21, 2027), and families are invited to an evening family night. Check your campus counseling website for the schedule. Parents may ask the counselor to join a meeting.

For an 8th grader moving to 9th grade, do we contact the middle school or the high school counselor?

Contact the middle school counselor. Middle and high school counselors communicate with each other throughout the process.

Do 5th graders and their parents get Naviance access?

No. Naviance access for students and parents begins in 6th grade. In 5th grade, students choose their 6th grade courses with the middle school counselor, who visits the elementary school in January and February.

My 6th grader hasn't received Naviance login instructions. Who should I contact?

Campus counseling departments are sending login information. Please allow until the end of October. If you haven't received it by then, contact your school counselor. You can also check your campus counseling website for Naviance lesson timelines.

For current 5th graders, which 6th grade courses are required and which can they choose?

6th graders take ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE. They may also choose electives.

What else is required in the middle school 3-year plan beyond the core classes?

Students take one fine arts course and two years of PE in middle school. Each campus may have additional requirements based on its master schedule.

Enrolling in LISD and transferring

Can an incoming high school student who isn't attending an LISD middle school take part in 4-year planning?

Yes. Students meet with a counselor as part of the enrollment process to discuss courses.

We're transferring a student from outside LISD into 9th grade for 2027-28. When will counseling be available?

Once your student enrolls, the campus will share the next steps for selecting courses.

If we transfer in July, how do we register for courses? Will it affect course availability?

When you can enroll depends on the registration timeline. After you enroll, a counselor will contact you to help with course selection. We encourage families to join LISD as early as possible. Students who arrive late may have a different timeline their first year, and planning is easier once enrolled.

When does enrollment open for students new to the district, including students zoned to LISD who attend a charter or another school?

New-student registration has traditionally opened around April 1, and we are reviewing whether to move it earlier. Applications for out-of-district students and campus transfers open earlier: last year's window opened in February, and this year's may open as early as January. Dates are being finalized and will be posted on the district website.

We live in the LISD zone, but our 8th grader attends another school. Can he attend Family Night?

Yes. Families planning to attend an LISD high school are welcome at that high school's 8th grade nights.

What if my student's chosen pathway isn't offered at the home high school?

Students who want a CTE program not offered at their home campus can apply through the district transfer process. Eligible programs are listed under "CTE Programs by Campus" on the High School Programs of Study page.

When should a student transfer for a CTE program?

It depends on the program. We set a grade level for priority transfer for each program so students can complete it. View the priority transfer chart.

Summer, correspondence and virtual courses

What are correspondence courses?

A correspondence course is taken through an outside provider, typically online and at the student's own pace, to earn credit toward high school graduation. Courses must meet district approval requirements. Many students call them "summer courses." Approved providers are UT High School, Texas Tech High School and Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN).

When can students enroll in TxVSN (start and end dates)?

Students may enroll in a TxVSN course after receiving approval from their campus correspondence course approver. Start and end dates depend on the reason for enrollment. For acceleration, students may begin once approved and must complete the course by July 25, before the upcoming school year begins.

Can a 7th grader take a distance learning course over the summer between 7th and 8th grade?

No. Beginning in 2027-28, middle school students may not earn correspondence course credit. For these courses, students are considered high school students starting the summer after 8th grade. Middle school students who want to accelerate can take exams for acceleration.

Why can't a 7th grader take a distance learning course over the summer?

Our course guidelines are designed to ensure students complete most of their high school coursework through Leander ISD and build the foundation needed for success in later courses. For that reason, students may begin taking distance learning courses in the summer between eighth and ninth grade. Students who have already mastered a subject may demonstrate that knowledge through an exam for acceleration.

Do correspondence courses count toward GPA?

Courses taken through UT High School and Texas Tech High School are not included in GPA. Courses taken through TxVSN are included.

Will correspondence courses be included in GPA in the future? Is there an advantage to taking them?

A district committee is considering whether to include correspondence courses in GPA. We will announce any change well in advance and will ask students and parents for feedback. The main advantage is acceleration: finishing a course over the summer can free a spot in the student's schedule for the next course in sequence.

If correspondence courses count toward GPA and only 8 semesters of each core subject count toward weighted GPA, how is that decided?

If a student completes more than 8 semesters (or more than 4 semesters of languages other than English), the weighted GPA used for class rank is calculated from the grades with the highest grade point value in each category.

I'm a freshman who already took a correspondence course. Am I limited to 4 credits?

No. The limit of four correspondence credits over a student's high school career applies to the Class of 2031 and later classes. A student in those classes may take a course each summer but can earn no more than four credits total.

Do the new correspondence rules apply to current 7th graders?

Current 7th graders will be 8th graders in 2027-28. They build a 3-year plan now and a 4-year plan in 8th grade. The new correspondence rules take effect in 2027-28: middle school students may not earn correspondence credit, and students in the Class of 2031 and later may earn up to four correspondence credits in high school.

Where is the coursework approval form for summer, correspondence and virtual courses?

The coursework approval form is in the middle school and high school course catalogs and on the Course Selection Hub. It is due March 11, 2027.

Where can I find summer course options for students entering 9th grade?

Approved providers are UT High School, Texas Tech High School and Texas Virtual School Network. Submit the approval form by March 11. ACC dual credit summer courses are on the Dual Credit list above.

AP, IB and dual credit

Where can I find the list of approved dual credit courses?

See the ACC Dual Credit Course List for LISD. Approved courses are also listed in the LISD course catalog.

Do students pay for AP exams? How much?

Yes. This year the fee is $87 per exam, or $27 for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Students with financial need can apply for additional assistance through the campus dean of instruction, who also handles AP exam registration. AP exam registration is open now. Students may also take an AP exam without taking the course, for a somewhat higher fee.

When can students start taking AP courses? How many can they take in 9th grade?

A few students take AP Spanish Language in middle school at a couple of campuses. In 9th grade, the usual AP courses are AP Human Geography and AP Computer Science Principles, with an occasional language course for a very advanced student.

How many AP courses can a student take in 11th grade?

As many as fit in the student's schedule. Choose based on your student's goals, strengths and interests. A student can also take an AP exam only, for a course they have already prepared for, at a slightly higher fee.

Can a student take AP courses and also do the IB program?

Yes. Work with your counselor and the IB coordinator to see what fits in the 4-year plan.

Must students transfer to Leander High School for IB?

Yes. The IB Diploma Programme is offered only at Leander High School, and students must transfer there to participate. It is a two-year program for juniors and seniors.

When do students need to decide between IB and AP?

We prefer that students who want IB transfer to Leander High School in 9th grade. LHS will accept students into the program until the start of junior year, when the Diploma Programme begins.

How do I tell Leander High School I'm interested in IB?

Complete the IB Statement of Intent when it opens. It starts the transfer process.

Can a student earn Distinguished with Honors and complete IB?

Yes. IB courses fill in pieces of the Distinguished requirements. Your counselor can map this in your 4-year plan, and IB students also have an IB coordinator on campus who works with them one-on-one.

Which is better: dual credit, AP or IB? How do I decide?

All three offer college-level rigor and can earn college credit, but they differ in curriculum, cost and how credit is awarded. Consider your academic goals, career interests, the colleges you are considering (dual credit works best for in-state colleges), learning style, strengths and a healthy balance with activities outside of school. View our comparison chart.

What do colleges find more impressive, IB or AP?

There is no single right answer. Colleges respond most to students who can explain how their learning reflects their strengths, talents and interests.

When does enrollment begin for AP, IB and dual credit courses? Is January 19 early enough for an 8th grader's plan?

Yes. Key dates for 2026-27:

- November 1: Dual Credit enrollment opens (deadline February 11, 2027)
- November 1 to February 1: Early College High School priority application window (open until seats are filled)
- January 21, 2027: 8th graders visit their high school
- February 22, 2027: Course selections viewable in Home Access Center
- March 11, 2027: Course request change window closes and 4-year plans are due

The IB Statement of Intent can be filed until the start of junior year. AP exam registration goes through your campus dean of instruction.

How do AP and dual credit courses affect GPA?

ACC dual credit courses are added to the transcript but are not calculated in the high school GPA. For how AP courses are weighted, refer to page 40 of the High School Course Catalog. AP Seminar and AP Research are excluded from weighted GPA.

Can students combine IB, AP or dual credit with a CTE pathway?

Yes, if the schedule allows. A CTE course may conflict with a particular AP course at a campus, which can require a choice. Each program page on the CTE website lists advanced academic courses that pair well with that program.

What is the difference between English II/AP Seminar and AP Seminar?

English II/AP Seminar gives students English II Advanced credit while preparing them for the AP Seminar project and exam. Students earn a grade for English II Advanced and pass/fail credit for AP Seminar. A stand-alone AP Seminar course is available to juniors who start later, depending on space.

If a student earns a 3 or higher on an AP exam, do they get college credit?

Students send their AP scores to the college they plan to attend, and the college decides whether to award credit. It is not college credit until it appears on a college transcript.

Are AP scores kept on the College Board website? For how long?

Scores are part of the student's College Board account, and the student can access and send them at any time. Students choose how many scores to send to colleges.

Are ACC courses accepted outside Texas?

It depends on the university. Credit policies differ by college, so check the schools your student is considering.

Does a student earn credit for a summer ACC class?

Yes, if it is an approved dual credit course listed in the LISD course catalog. ACC sends grade reports to the campus, and credit is added to the transcript in late August.

Can a student take ACC courses without having them on the high school transcript or GPA?

Courses on the LISD Dual Credit list are added to the high school transcript. ACC courses are not calculated in the high school GPA. Students can also take courses outside the list, but those will appear on the student's college transcript.

My sophomore needs one more fine arts credit. Can he take it over the summer through ACC?

Some courses that meet the Fine Arts requirement, such as DRAM 1310, are on the LISD Dual Credit list.

My freshman didn't get into a planned class. How can we stay on track? How do ACC summer classes work?

Counselors will help students complete their 4-year plan. Contact your campus College and Career Transition Coordinator to enroll in ACC summer courses. The 2027-28 Dual Credit enrollment process opens November 1, and the deadline is February 11, 2027.

If a student takes a language exam in middle school, can they still take the AP language course in high school?

When a student completes a language exam and earns credit, the student and guardian select how many credits to accept. For example, if a student takes the Spanish language exam and earns 4 credits, but would like to take AP Spanish IV, the student can select to only accept 3 credits.

If a student takes only the AP exam (no course), does it count for GPA and the transcript?

Students can earn high school credit by taking and earning a 3 or higher on an AP exam. The credit will be added to the student's transcript with "P" grade and will be excluded from the student's GPA.

Leander Early College High School (ECHS)

Does ECHS offer athletics? Can students play sports at their home high school?

No. ECHS is designed to help students earn an associate degree in a high school setting, and its schedule has no room for athletics or band. Students enjoy many student-led clubs, and sports activities take place within the school during club time.

Is there a medical track at ECHS?

Students can build a schedule around their interests. A student interested in medicine can take high school science along with ACC courses such as biomedical engineering, cellular and molecular biology, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology. Some are double-blocked lab courses, so the ECHS counselor builds a custom schedule for each student.

Is the ECHS associate degree the same as one earned at ACC?

Yes. ECHS students earn an Associate of General Studies, the same degree a student would earn at ACC after high school. ECHS students earn it while still in high school, about two weeks before graduating, and the 60 college credits are free.

Is there a law pathway at ECHS?

Our CTE offerings include a Law & Public Service cluster with a Law Enforcement program. ECHS students earn an Associate of General Studies and build schedules around their interests. For questions about ECHS options, visit https://echs.leanderisd.org/home.

GPA and course weighting

How is weighted GPA calculated? Are IB and AP courses weighted higher?

Refer to page 40 of the High School Course Catalog or the Class Ranking page for course levels and the GPA calculation.

Are AP Seminar and AP Research weighted on the 5.5 or the 6.0 scale?

These courses are excluded from weighted GPA and included in the unweighted GPA on the 4.0 scale.

Is English II/AP Seminar weighted on the 5.5 or the 6.0 scale?

The course is on the Level II 5.5 scale. Students earn a graded English II Advanced credit and pass/fail credit for AP Seminar, which is not weighted.

Do middle school math courses, including Algebra I in 8th grade, affect the high school GPA?

No. Middle school courses are not included in the high school GPA. High school courses taken in middle school appear on the transcript but are not part of the GPA calculation.

How can I check my GPA during the year to track progress?

Student GPA is available in Home Access Center and Naviance. Cumulative GPA and rank in class shall be calculated and communicated to students as specified below:

Grade 9: following the second semester grading period (June) of the academic year.

Grade 10: following the second semester grading period (June) of the academic year.

Grade 11: following the first semester grading period (January) and following the second semester grading period (June) of the academic year.

Grade 12: following the first semester grading period (January) and the final class rank for seniors at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year; the average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the final semester grade for this purpose.

Gifted and talented

How is a student identified as gifted? My daughter joined LISD in 6th grade from another district.

When a student has been identified as gifted in another district, we review their records. If a student arrives late, the QUEST elective may not have space, but all students have access to advanced coursework, and the student can still take QUEST in 7th and 8th grade. Work with your counselor on next year's schedule. Find more information on our Gifted and Talented page.

Is QUEST offered in high school?

No. QUEST is not a high school course. Gifted learners are encouraged to take the IB Diploma Programme or the AP Capstone Diploma program, which allow independent study projects with professional outcomes.

My daughter transferred from another district, and LISD only recently received her gifted and talented records. Can she join QUEST before 8th grade?

When a student has been identified as gifted in another district, we review their records. If a student arrives late, the QUEST elective may not have space, but the student can still take QUEST in 7th and 8th grade. Work with the campus counselor on her schedule.

World languages

What if my high school doesn't offer the language my student wants, such as Chinese? How can a student test in a language other than Spanish?

LISD offers Spanish, French, other languages and American Sign Language. For a language such as Chinese, students can take an exam (such as the STAMP test) to earn credit. Some campuses offer languages that others don't, and we have worked with families to let a student take the course at another campus. Offerings vary because of teacher certification. Contact the counseling department with your specific situation.

Which languages can earn credit, and is a test required?

Our Global Languages department handles this. Students test to determine their level, and credit is awarded based on placement. Contact the Global Languages department about specific languages.

To graduate with honors, 3 language credits are required. Must they be in the same language?

Yes.

Can an incoming 9th grader take AP Spanish by testing out of Spanish 1–3?

Exams for acceleration let students earn credit with no prior instruction, one year of a course per testing window and with prerequisites completed or nearly completed. A few students take AP Spanish Language in middle school, and a very advanced language student may take an AP language course as a freshman. Contact our Global Languages department for placement.

Can an incoming 9th grader test for all six semesters of Spanish?

Only one year of a course is allowed in a testing window. Any prerequisite requirements must be completed, or nearly completed, before registration.

If we take a LOTE credit course, do we not have to take another language?

Students are required to complete 2-3 credits (depending on graduation plan) of a language other than English to meet graduation requirements.

Career and technical education (CTE)

Are CTE pathways mapped from 6th through 12th grade?

The CTE website has a page for each program of study with a recommended course sequence and also lists middle school CTE offerings.

Can a student take both engineering pathways?

Yes, students can earn both engineering pathways, and each program begins with Engineering Design Process. Availability depends on campus offerings and the student's schedule, so check with your counselor. Students can start in middle school.

If a student has a Business endorsement, can they still take CTE programs?

Yes. Students can earn multiple endorsements by planning with their counselor.

How can I tell which courses are available at my high school?

Review the CTE Programs by Campus document on the CTE High School Programs page.

Is Fashion Design offered at Glenn High School?

Fashion Design is being phased out at Glenn. Students who have started the program can finish it. Going forward it will be offered at Vandegrift, Cedar Park, Vista Ridge and Rouse high schools.

Is it too late to select the engineering pathway?

It depends on grade level and math courses. If the student meets the prerequisites, courses are open to students in grades 9–12. For example, see the Electrical Engineering Program of Study.

Can a 10th grader take CTE courses?

Yes, if the student meets the prerequisites and the course is offered at the campus. Courses are open to students in grades 9–12 when prerequisites are met, and some advanced courses are for grades 11–12.

Can a student take Veterinary Science at a different campus?

Yes, through the district transfer process for CTE programs not offered at the home campus. Veterinary Science is currently offered at Leander, Vista Ridge and Vandegrift high schools (grades 11–12).

How many electives can a high school student take at once?

Students have 8 class periods. Typically four are core classes (math, science, English and social studies), and the other four may include requirements such as a language and PE as a freshman. The number of electives depends on double-blocked courses such as athletics or band. With planning, a student can fit in several interests, such as culinary, agriculture and a fine arts course. Counselors will cover this during 4-year planning.

Are athletics double-blocked?

Yes. Athletics and band are examples of double-blocked courses.

How are practicum classes graded?

Practicum experiences vary by program. Some are class-based, and others are individual internships, collaborative projects or student-run enterprises. Grading is rooted in durable (employability) skills, which are consistent across practicums, along with program-specific components.

My student attends Vandegrift and is interested in JROTC, which is at LHS. How does that work? Can he play sports too?

Instructor contact information is in the LHS directory (Air Force) and the VRHS directory (Navy). Transportation is provided, but a Vandegrift student must attend a full day at the other campus, so it can be hard to also meet athletic requirements. Your campus College and Career Transition Coordinator can answer specific questions.

Math and exams for acceleration

What are the other testing windows for exams for acceleration?

Information about exam for acceleration testing windows can be found on our Exam for Acceleration page.

Is there a limit to how many acceleration exams a student can take?

Only one year of a course is allowed in a testing window. Any prerequisite requirements must be completed, or nearly completed, before registration.

An 8th grader in Algebra 1 plans to take Algebra 2 in 9th grade. Can he test out of Geometry, or must he take a summer course?

The exam for acceleration can be taken for Geometry if the student is prepared for it.

Is AP Statistics available in 9th grade?

It is possible but not typical or encouraged. A few students accelerate through Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 in middle school and reach Pre-Calculus or Statistics by 9th grade. We encourage families to think carefully before skipping foundational courses: students can run out of math in high school, and the SAT and PSAT mainly test Geometry, Algebra 1 and some Algebra 2.

An 8th grader in Algebra 1 plans to test out of Geometry and take Algebra 2 in 9th grade. Which course should he request during spring course selection?

Request the next course in sequence, which is Geometry. Students are scheduled in the next course in sequence until the district receives an official transcript showing they completed an outside course. The schedule is updated after credit is added to the transcript. The transcript is due by 4 p.m. on August 1, and later courses in sequence are not guaranteed because they depend on seating capacity and the master schedule. If your student plans to earn credit by exam instead, talk with your counselor about how to request courses.

A 7th grader in math pathway 3 (about Algebra 1) wants to take Algebra 2 in 8th grade. Can she take only the acceleration exam over the summer?

Middle school students can accelerate only through exams for acceleration. To earn credit with no prior instruction, a student must score 80% or higher on an approved criterion-referenced test (or 3+ on an AP exam or 50+ on a CLEP exam). Prerequisite courses must be completed, or nearly completed, before registering, and only one year of a course may be tested per window. That means Geometry would need to be finished first. Please talk with your counselor about your student's math pathway.

Can a 10th grader take Advanced Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus together?

No. The prerequisites for Precalculus are Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.

Can Algebra 2 be accelerated by exam, or must students take a summer course?

Both options exist. Exams for acceleration are offered four times a year. Summer courses through UT High School, Texas Tech High School or TxVSN are available beginning the summer after 8th grade and require an approved request form, due March 11.

What score is needed to qualify for Algebra 2 in the summer if my student takes Geometry this year?

For an exam for acceleration, a score of 80% or higher on the approved test. For a summer course, no score is required. Campus staff confirm that the student has completed the prerequisite, or passed the first semester of it, before approving. You will receive an approval or denial by April 1, 2027.

My child is in Algebra 1 and plans to take the Geometry exam this summer. Where can he learn the course?

Approved summer course providers are UT High School, Texas Tech High School and Texas Virtual School Network, available beginning the summer after 8th grade. Exams for acceleration are offered four times a year, and the approved criterion-referenced test comes through UT High School.

Can an 8th grader in Algebra 1 take Geometry through UT High School during the school year, or must she wait until summer?

She would need to wait until the summer after 8th grade. Middle school students cannot earn correspondence course credit. An exam for acceleration is the only earlier option.

Do students who accelerate beyond the core high school math usually take college math in their junior or senior years?

Math course sequence information is available on page 20 of the HS Course Catalog.

Can a 6th grader take 8th grade math through TxVSN?

No. Middle school students cannot earn correspondence or virtual course credit until the summer after 8th grade. Exams for acceleration are available.

If a student is already in Algebra 2 in 8th grade, is there a summer course that adds to GPA?

After 8th grade, students may take approved summer courses. UT High School and Texas Tech High School courses are not included in GPA, and ACC dual credit courses are not calculated in the high school GPA. TxVSN courses are included in GPA today, though the district is reviewing how correspondence courses are treated.

Is a credit-by-exam for Geometry at the end of 8th grade included in the GPA?

Middle school courses do not count in the high school GPA, and high school courses taken in middle school appear on the transcript without being calculated in the GPA. Your counselor can explain how exam credit is recorded.

Will Algebra 1 and 2 in 9th and 10th grade, and College Algebra in 11th, help SAT/ACT scores and lead to an associate degree by 12th grade?

We encourage families not to skip foundational math, because the SAT and PSAT mainly test Geometry, Algebra 1 and some Algebra 2. College-level math is available through ACC dual credit beginning the summer after 8th grade. Students who want to earn an associate degree while in high school should look at Leander Early College High School.

To take the STAMP test, must students be proficient in both reading and writing?

Avant STAMP 4S is an internationally-recognized web-based test that assesses language proficiency. It has 4 sections: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Avant STAMP is a proficiency test of what the test taker can do with the language at this point in time. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, simply a demonstration of their skills.

How many times can a student take the STAMP test?

The STAMP test is a standardized language proficiency assessment designed to measure fluency, rather than a knowledge-based exam; consequently, retaking it will likely yield the same score. We can offer a retest only if the student experienced technical issues or personal circumstances that impacted their performance on the day of the test. Still, we do respond to each retesting request in case it is necessary to retest.

Misc.

Do all high schools have the same number of class periods?

High school students have 8 class periods in their schedule.

Are there plans to expand the middle school day from 8 periods to 9? When will it be decided?

We are currently exploring a nine-period day as an option for our middle school campuses. Decisions will be made by the end of November and shared with families once finalized.

Can my child take sports and band and still fit Spanish and an endorsement class?

Possibly. Athletics and band are double-blocked, which reduces the number of electives in an 8-period day. Your counselor will help you build this into the 4-year plan, and taking an ACC class in the summer can free an elective spot during the school year.

Can a student earn an endorsement (such as Public Health Service) through sequential courses from outside providers like UT High School if the program isn't offered at their school and they can't transfer?

Yes - students can take CTE courses via correspondence, distance, and virtual courses through approved course providers as outlined in the LISD Course Catalog, including UT High School, Texas Tech University High School, or the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), although course options are limited. Reference page 27 of the Course Catalog for eligibility, approval process, and considerations. The deadline for approval of correspondence courses aligns with the deadline for course selections: March 11, 2027.

Additionally, Austin Community College offers CTE courses approved for high school credit (reference pages 35-36 and 45 of Course Catalog). While courses can be taken for exploratory purposes, in order for the course to apply to a student's CTE Program of Study completion (and in turn an endorsement), it must align with the Program of Study as outlined on the LISD CTE website. (For example: ACC's HPRS 1206-Medical Terminology could apply as a course credit toward the Biomedical Science or Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services: Healthcare Programs of Study).

It is important to note that for Career and Technical Student Organization eligibility, such as DECA or HOSA, students must be enrolled in an aligned CTE course at the high school campus.

Does a course count toward every pathway, or must the student take courses for each endorsement?

There are many courses that meet the requirements for more than one endorsement.

Can a student take AP Biology or another AP science course in 9th grade?

The AP courses typically taken in 9th grade are AP Human Geography and AP Computer Science Principles. Biology Advanced and Chemistry Advanced prepare students for later AP science courses. Ask your campus counselor about 9th grade options.

Does the course catalog show which courses are double-blocked?

Check each course's credit information in the course catalog and on the CTE website. Some advanced CTE courses, especially labs, meet for two class periods. Your counselor can help you plan around them.

What should an 8th grader interested in music focus on?

Fine arts, such as band, choir and dance, is one of four types of high school electives and is separate from advanced academics. AP Music Theory is the AP course for music. Review the fine arts courses in the course catalog and talk with your counselor or campus fine arts teachers.

Do middle schools offer one-on-one advising?

Counselors meet with 7th graders at their campus, and 8th graders meet one-on-one with the high school counselor. Parents may ask to join. Check your campus counseling website for the schedule.

My daughter didn't get art in 6th grade. Can she take art in 7th if she meets the prerequisites?

Art is an available fine arts course for students in grades 6-8.

If a student isn't selected at a tennis tryout, can he take dance to fulfill PE? Is it guaranteed? Where does he note the alternative?

Requirements for specific courses can be found in the HS Course Catalog. Alternates are selected through the course selection process and are used by counselors as needed to build a complete student schedule.

The middle school course catalog doesn't say which campuses offer which electives. Can it be updated?

Students and families can view the electives available at their middle school in Naviance.

Does LISD share statistics on where graduating seniors from each high school go (military, in-state colleges, two-year colleges, out-of-state)?

LISD does not currently publish a campus-by-campus breakdown of graduates' postsecondary destinations, such as military service, in-state or out-of-state colleges, or two-year colleges.