



Credit Conversations with the Counselors

Ross S. Sterling High School
September 29, 2025





Meeting Agenda

- To review graduation requirements
- To help parents have an understanding of the dual credit opportunities offered to their students



2025- 2026 Administrative Team!



Principal: Mr. Chaddick



Academic Dean: Ms. Yarbrough



Testing and Special Programs: Ms. Fuller



2025- 2026 Administrative Team!



Mr. Abston

Freshman AP
X308



Mr. Pitre

Sophomore AP
129C



Mrs. Rodriguez

Junior AP
116B



Mr. Congdon

Senior AP
Annex



Locations:



- ◆ 9th Grade - Mr. Abston's Office (X308)
- ◆ 10th Grade - Mr. Pitre's Office (129 C)
- ◆ 11th Grade - Ms. Rodriguez's Office (116B)
- ◆ 12th Grade - Mr. Congdon's Office (Annex)



Counseling & Student Wellness Network Team



Ms. Hernandez

Freshman Counselor



Ms. Lee

Sophomore Counselor



Ms. Ritchie

Junior
Counselor/Lead



Ms. Marshall

Senior Counselor



Ms. Lamark

Academy Counselor



College and Career Team



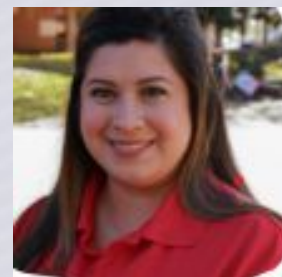
Angela Rawls
College and
Career Counselor



Kurshine Jackson
Dual Credit Advisor



Kendy Campa
College and Career Clerk



Amanda Lavender
Shared College Advisor



Ranger Center



All Counselors are located in the Ranger Center

- ◆ Located across the hall from the main office
- ◆ Everyone must sign in
 - Name
 - ID#
 - Time
 - Reason for Visit



Counseling & Student Wellness Network Team



Mrs. Slack
Student Wellness Interventionist



Mrs. Adams
Communities in Schools



District and Campus Communications



ParentSquare

Register for Important Updates





Free / Reduced Lunch Application

- You MUST reapply EVERY year
- 1 application per FAMILY
- Generally October 20th – you will go to PAID status
- Can get fee waivers for college tests and college applications
- Apply ONLINE
- –www.gccisd.net
- Departments
- Nutrition Services
- –**Free/Reduced Meal Application**
- –Complete Application



Everything Counts!



Beginning the first day of your 9th grade year, RSS has kept track of the following:

- ◆ Attendance: *Excused* and *Unexcused* absences
- ◆ All grades
- ◆ Credits earned
- ◆ Your discipline records

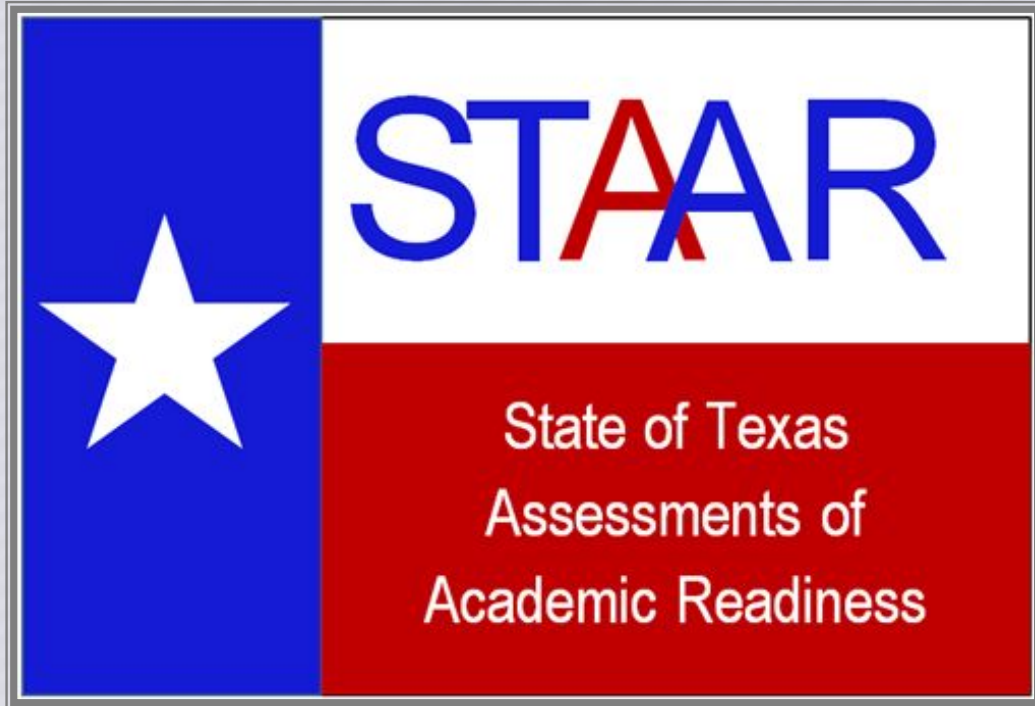
These records are kept for all four years!



STAAR Exams



You must pass 5 STAAR
Exams in order to graduate in 2027!



English I/Freshman Year
Algebra I/Freshman Year or 8th Grade
Biology/Freshman Year
English II/Sophomore Year
US History/Junior Year





Attendance

Students must be present at least 90% of the enrollment days *each semester* to receive credit for the class.





Attendance Recovery

Students who do not meet the attendance requirements will be required to sign an *Attendance Contract* with the Assistant Principal.

They may have to attend Attendance Recovery sessions.



Attendance Recovery



Week of	Wednesday 2:55 PM –4:30 PM	Saturday 8:00 AM-Noon
Sept. 15	Training on Sept 19	Sept. 20, 2025
Sept. 22	Sept. 24, 2025	PLC Friday
Sept. 29	Oct. 01, 2025	Oct. 04, 2025
Oct. 06	Oct. 08, 2025	Fall Break
Oct. 13	Fall Break	Fall Break
Oct. 20	Oct. 22, 2025	Oct. 25, 2025
Oct. 27	Oct. 29, 2025	Nov. 01, 2025
Nov. 03	Nov. 05, 2025	Nov. 08, 2025
Nov. 10	Nov. 12, 2025	Nov. 15, 2025
Nov. 17	Nov. 19, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 01	Dec. 03, 2025	Dec. 06, 2025
Dec. 08	Dec. 10, 2025	Dec. 13, 2025
Dec. 15	Final Exam week	Final Exam week



Grades & Credits



- In order to receive credit for a class, students must earn a 70 average for each semester the class is in session and attend classes 90+ percent of the time.





Earning Credits

- A course can be taken only once for high school credit. If you have taken and passed a high school course, you cannot take the same course again.
- Some courses will require tryouts or an application. Once approved, your high school counselor will assign you to those classes.





Report Card Timelines

- August 11–October 10
- October 20–December 19
- January 7–March 6
- March 16–May 22



Texas High School Diploma - Steps

Distinguished Level of Achievement

26 Credits • Algebra II Required • Eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas Public Universities

22 Credits for the Foundation High School Program

Requirements of 1 Endorsement

(including 4th credit of Math and Science and 2 additional electives)



Be sure to visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.
Students may earn more than one endorsement.

Texas Education Agency • Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board • Texas Workforce Commission

GCCISD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Cohort 2018 and Beyond

Curriculum Area	Foundation with Endorsement Plan	Distinguished Level of Achievement
English	4 credits English I English II English III An Advanced English	4 credits English I English II English III An Advanced English
Mathematics	4 credits Algebra I Geometry 2 Advanced Math Courses	4 credits Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Advanced Math Course
Science	4 credits Biology IPC or an Advanced Science Course 2 Advanced Science Courses	4 credits Biology IPC or an Advanced Science Course IPC or an Advanced Science Course An Advanced Science Course
Social Studies	3 credits World Geography or World History US History US Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit)	3 credits* World Geography or World History US History US Government (1/2 credit) Economics (1/2 credit)
Other Languages	2 credits (same language)	2 credits (same language)
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit
Elective(s)/Endorsement Courses	See Endorsement Options to determine the number of credits needed.	
State Exams	STAAR EOCs-5 required	STAAR EOCs-5 required
TOTAL CREDITS	26 Credits including an Endorsement	



FAFSA

Beginning with the Class of 2022, FAFSA is a graduation requirement.

- Students must complete the FAFSA and provide documentation to the school that it has been completed. They can email the counselor the confirmation.
- Families can opt-out of the FAFSA. There is an official form that must be signed.





FAFSA Nights

If you would like assistance completing the FAFSA, RSS will host FAFSA Nights with assistance from Lee College in the Library.

- 10/9–5-7 pm
- 11/19–5-7 pm
- 2/19–5-7 pm



Sign up for the
October 9th night

Bring your information and get help completing the FAFSA.



Free College Application Week!



October 13–19

Texas residents can apply to any public college or university for undergraduate admission at no cost by submitting their applications through the ApplyTexas system.



College and Career Readiness



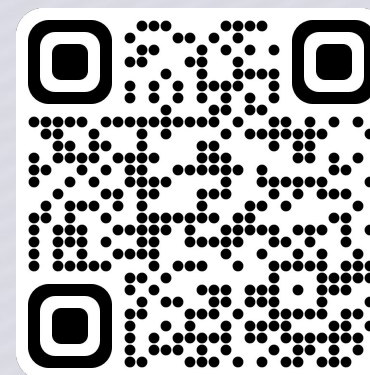
Endorsements

Under House Bill 5, entering ninth-graders for the 2014-2015 academic year will declare an "endorsement" in one of five areas of study: science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), business and industry, public services, arts and humanities, and multidisciplinary studies.

This repackaging of the graduation-requirement formula will better define students' high school careers, even noting these focused areas of study on their transcript and diploma.



Visit the GCCISD Website, click on Students and Parents, then Academies and High School Options or scan the QR code below to find out more information on endorsements. The Ranger Center has information as well.



CCMR Accountability: College Ready

College Ready

Meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Criteria in RLA and Mathematics

meet TSIA1 and/or TSIA2 college-ready criteria

meet SAT college-ready criteria

meet ACT college-ready criteria

successful completion and earned credit for a college prep course

Earn Dual Course Credits

3 college credit hours in RLA

3 college credit hours in Math

9 college credit hours (any subject)

Meet Criteria on AP/IB Examination

Score of 3 or higher on an AP exam (any subject)

Score of 4 or higher on an AP exam (any subject)

Earn an Associate Degree

Associate of Arts (AA)

Associate of Science (AS)

Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

Complete an OnRamps Dual Enrollment Course

3 college credit hours (any subject)



Endorsements

Texas students are required to choose an endorsement upon entering 9th grade.

- Multidisciplinary
- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Industry
- Public Services
- STEM





Multidisciplinary

RSS options are

- 4x4 option= 4 credits in each core area: English, Math, Science, Social Studies
- College Credit option= 4 credits in AP or dual credit courses
- Advanced Course option= 4 advanced academic or advanced CTE courses





Arts & Humanities

RSS options are

- Dance
- Music= 4 years in band, choir, orchestra
- Visual Arts= 4 years in Art
- Theater Arts= 4 years in Theater Arts, Tech, or Production
- Social Studies= 5 credits in Social Studies courses
- Languages Other Than English= 4 credits in one language or 2 credits each in 2 different languages





Business & Industry

RSS options are:

- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Construction
- Graphic Design (Yearbook)





Public Services

RSS options are:

- Teaching & Training (Career Academy)
- Healthcare Diagnostic & Therapeutic
- Law
- JROTC



Science, Technology, Engineering & Math



RSS options are:

- Biomedical Science (Career Academy)
- Science= 5 credits in science
- Math= 5 credits in math
- Combination= 5 credits of math & science
- Computer Programming & Software Development



How are courses weighted in my GPA?

Beginning with the class of 2026, the district shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced, Honors, and Regular / Academic in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications. Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit courses shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses. Eligible courses locally designated as honors shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses. All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses. The district shall convert semester grades earned in eligible courses to grade points in accordance with the following chart and shall calculate a weighted grade point average (GPA):

Grade	Advanced	Honors	Regular / Academic
100	6.0	5.0	4.0
99	5.9	4.9	3.9
98	5.8	4.8	3.8
97	5.7	4.7	3.7
96	5.6	4.6	3.6
95	5.5	4.5	3.5
94	5.4	4.4	3.4
93	5.3	4.3	3.3
92	5.2	4.2	3.2
91	5.1	4.1	3.1
90	5.0	4.0	3.0
89	4.9	3.9	2.9
88	4.8	3.8	2.8
87	4.7	3.7	2.7
86	4.6	3.6	2.6
85	4.5	3.5	2.5
84	4.4	3.4	2.4
83	4.3	3.3	2.3
82	4.2	3.2	2.2
81	4.1	3.1	2.1
80	4.0	3.0	2.0
79	3.9	2.9	1.9
78	3.8	2.8	1.8
77	3.7	2.7	1.7
76	3.6	2.6	1.6
75	3.5	2.5	1.5
74	3.4	2.4	1.4
73	3.3	2.3	1.3
72	3.2	2.2	1.2
71	3.1	2.1	1.1
70	3.0	2.0	1.0
Below 70	0	0	0



Automatic Admission to Texas Public Universities

Students graduating in the top 10%* of their class can receive automatic admission if...

- They earn a distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program
- They earn at least one endorsement
- They successfully complete Algebra 2

**University of Texas at Austin has a lower threshold, top 5%.*





Senior Class Ranking

- Class rank shall be defined as a numerical standing with one's peers determined by academic success in selected courses.
- Final class rank for graduating seniors shall be assessed after the third nine weeks of the school year.
- Began in August 2024





Advanced Academics

RSS offers our students AP courses, dual credit with Lee College and Lamar Institute of Technology, and dual credit with UT through our On Ramps classes.

One goal of Sterling High School is for students to graduate with at least 9 semester credit hours.

To be successful in these advanced classes students need to be able to do the following:

- Be organized
- Have good time management skills
- Ask questions
- Be willing to put in the time and work needed for the class





Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- Each AP class offers a chance for students to earn college credit with a qualifying score on an AP exam taken at the end of the year.
- AP courses allow students to explore the rigor of college-level course work without the pressure of appearing on their college transcript.
- Students who choose to take the AP exam will pay the \$99 for the exam fee.
- AP is a national program through the College Board, so it is widely accepted by private colleges and out-of-state universities.





On Ramps Courses

- The On Ramps program provides students with the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit at the same time.
- Courses are led by a University of Texas professor through an online format.
- Students have the opportunity at the end of the course to either accept or decline the college grade.
- On Ramps courses cost \$50 per year.





Dual Credit Courses

College classes held on the RSS campus.

- Both online and face-to-face options are available.

Variety of courses offered from the Texas Common Core

- English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and electives
- Dual credit courses cost \$50 per year.





Dual Credit

- Substantial savings for families
- \$50 per year, regardless of the number of dual credit courses you take





Core Complete

42 Semester Credit Hours

-
- 6 SCH–Communications
 - 3 SCH–Math
 - 6 SCH–Life & Physical Science
 - 3 SCH–Language, Philosophy, and Culture
 - 3 SCH–Creative Arts
 - 6 SCH–American History
 - 6 SCH–Government & Political Science
 - 3 SCH–Social & Behavioral Science
 - 6 SCH–Component Area Requirements





TSIA

Test required by public colleges and universities in Texas to determine if students are ready for college-level courses in math, reading and writing.

Some dual credit courses require students to pass the TSIA before they can take the course.





Progress Learning

Every student has access to **Progress Learning** in their student portal.

- TSIA Study Plan





TSIA Bootcamps & Saturday Testing

- 11/1–TSIA Boot camp 8-10 am
- 11/8–TSIA test
- 1/17–TSIA Boot camp 8-10 am
- 1/24–TSIA test
- 2/7–TSIA Boot camp 8-10 am
- 2/14–TSIA test





Choosing Courses for Next Year

Counselors will begin talking to students in October.

- The Course Selection Sheets will be sent in Parent Square, so you will have time to discuss options with your students before they sit with the counselor.
- We will revise the student's 4-year plan and send a copy home for your review and signature. If you have any questions, concerns, or changes, please contact your student's counselor.

Refer to the GCCISD Educational Planning Guide for more information on course sequences, endorsements, and course descriptions.





Educational Planning Guide

Go to the **GCCISD** website—www.gccisd.net

Click **Students and Parents**





This presentation will be posted on the Counselor page on the RSS website.

Don't forget to check out our College & Career Corner!



How to Report Bullying



HOME ADMINISTRATION FACULTY & STAFF STUDENT LIFE LIBRARY NURSE PARENT PORTAL

CAMPUS LINKS

About Us Previous attachment
Academics & Learning
College & Career
Crimestoppers
Friends For Life
Report Bullying
School Bell Schedule
School Events Calendar
School Profile
Student Records & Transcript Requests

DISTRICT LINKS

Instructional Calendar
School Supplies
Educational Technology

25.26 RSS Bell Schedule

First	Second	Third	Fourth	**Fifth	Sixth	Seventh
7:20-8:12	8:17-9:09	9:14-10:09	10:14-11:06	11:11-12:56	1:01-1:53	1:58-2:50

A Lunch	B Lunch	C Lunch
11:06-11:36	11:46-12:16	12:26-12:56

*** (depending on lunch, see 4th class)*

25.26 RSS Bell Schedule



GOOSE CREEK CISD • DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD



Let's make it a GREAT year!

