



Acceleration and Credit-by-Exam Without Prior Instruction Information for Parents and Students

According to Board Policy EHDC (LEGAL), the Cleburne Independent School District (CISD) will develop Credit by Examination (CBE) procedures for each elementary school grade level and specific secondary school academic subject. Credit by Exam provides a way for students to receive credit and advance one grade-level. The district shall develop or select criterion-referenced examinations that thoroughly test the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and have been approved by the CISD Board of Trustees. The district is required to provide grade advancement opportunities for students who have had no prior instruction, by taking CBE. Students must be registered in and attending a Cleburne ISD school if school is in session, in order to be eligible to test.

Kindergarten Acceleration Information Credit-by-Exam without Prior Instruction Qualifications for Testing

In accordance with State Board rules, the Board shall approve procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to first grade rather than kindergarten. Students must meet the following qualifications:

- The student **MUST** be 5 years old on or before September 1st.
- The student **MUST** be registered for Kindergarten in Cleburne ISD.

If both of these qualifications are met, then a parent/guardian may request that his/her child test for placement in first grade. A parent must request testing for alternative placement by completing the Application of Intent to Test Credit-by-Exam form within the first two weeks of school. This form may be obtained from the campus counselor or principal. To determine whether testing and possible placement in first grade are the best options, parents, students and staff should consider the following:

- Academic rigor of first grade
- Social and emotional impact
- Maturity of the student
- Effect of skipping a grade level on the student's overall educational experience

About the Test

The students will be required to take two exams. The first is the Kindergarten- English Language Arts and Reading. This exam consists of 50 questions and is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for this subject. The second test is the Kindergarten Mathematics. This exam also consists of 50 questions and is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. The exams are ordered from Texas Tech University, Texas Tech ISD. Testing is conducted at Cleburne ISD's Central Office by the CISD Director of Assessment and Advanced Academics or another designated professional staff member.

More information regarding the test and review sheets may be found on the Texas Tech ISD website: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/uc/ec2k/Heading.asp>

Results and Acceleration

Test results will be sent to the principal of the school where the student is registered. The principal or designee will contact the parent regarding the student's test scores. In order to advance to first grade, the student must score an 80% or above on both district approved assessments for English Language Arts and Reading and Math. In addition, a recommendation from a placement committee at the campus which consists of the principal, counselor, and teacher will be made to determine if the child is ready for first grade based on test performance and social skills. If the child is recommended for acceleration, it will be on a probationary basis. Should the school or teacher feel it is in the best interest of the child to be placed back in kindergarten the parent will be contacted. If the student does not score an "80" on either or both of the tests, he/she will not be allowed to advance to first grade nor will the student be allowed to retest.

Scoring

Scoring of an approved CBE is conducted exclusively by the vendor.

Applications

Applications for testing should be made through the school counselor.

Fees

The District shall not charge for the examinations for acceleration if the tests are ordered during the testing window designated by the District. If a parent requests an alternative examination, the District may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.

Credit by Exam for Advancement Grades 1-5

Credit by Examination for Advancement (Without Prior Instruction) is available to first through fifth grade students who wish to test for advancement to the next grade level.

Qualifications for Testing

Students may not have had previous formal instruction in the grade level for which they wish to advance beyond.

About the Test

Elementary students must take exams in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The exams are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and each exam varies as to the number of questions and content. All tests are ordered from Texas Tech University, Texas Tech ISD and are ordered only one test at a time. If the student demonstrates mastery of 80 percent or higher then he/she is eligible to take the next test. Testing is conducted at Cleburne ISD's Central Office by the CISD Director of Assessment and Advanced Academics or another designated professional staff member.

More information regarding the test and review sheets may be found on the Texas Tech ISD website: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/uc/ec2k/Heading.asp>

Results and Acceleration

A student in grades 1st through 5th without prior instruction in the grade level to be tested will be accelerated a grade if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The student scores a minimum of 80 percent on a criterion-referenced test in each of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science and social studies
- The teacher, if available, principal or principal's designee recommends that the student advance; and
- The student's parent or guardian gives written approval for the acceleration.

Scoring

Scoring of an approved CBE is conducted exclusively by the vendor.

Applications

Applications for testing should be made through the school counselor.

Fees

The District shall not charge for the examinations for acceleration if the tests are ordered during the testing window designated by the District. If a parent requests an alternative examination, the District may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.

Credit by Exam for Advancement for Middle School Grades 6-8

Credit by Examination for Advancement (Without Prior Instruction) is available to sixth through eighth grade students who wish to advance a grade level.

Qualifications for Testing

Students may not have had previous formal instruction in the grade level for which they wish to advance beyond.

About the Test

Students must take exams in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Each of these exams has two parts to the test, for example, English Language Arts and Reading 6A and 6B. The exams are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and each exam varies as to the number of questions and content. All tests are ordered from Texas Tech University, Texas Tech ISD and are ordered only one test at a time. If the student demonstrates mastery of 80 percent or higher then he/she is eligible to take the next test. If a student fails to meet 80% mastery on any test the testing will be discontinued. Testing is conducted at Cleburne ISD's Central Office by the CISD Director of Assessment and Advanced Academics or another designated professional staff member.

More information regarding the test and review sheets may be found on the Texas Tech ISD website: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/uc/ec2k/Heading.asp>

Results and Acceleration

A student in grades 6th through 8th without prior instruction in the grade level to be tested will be accelerated a grade if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The student scores a minimum of 80 percent on a criterion-referenced test in each of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. A combined score of a minimum of 80 percent must be mastered for the A and B parts of the exam.

- The teacher, if available, principal or principal's designee recommends that the student advance; and
- The student's parent or guardian gives written approval for the acceleration.

Scoring

Scoring of an approved CBE is conducted exclusively by the vendor.

Applications

Applications for testing should be made through the school counselor.

Fees

The District shall not charge for the examinations for acceleration if the tests are ordered during the testing window designated by the District. If a parent requests an alternative examination, the District may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.

Credit by Exam for Advancement High School Grades 9-12

High school students may earn credit for a course in which they have had no prior formal instruction by taking a credit by exam. They must receive a minimum score of 80 percent on the exam in order to receive credit. At the high school level grades earned on the CBE will be recorded on the student's High School Transcript and will be calculated in the student's grade point average (GPA). The student's parent/guardian may decline CBE scores and credit within 30 days from the date the results were sent. No scores will be recorded if the student fails to meet the criteria for advancement.

About the Test

A student may select to take an exam in an academic subject for which he or she has had no prior instruction. The exams are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and each exam varies as to the number of questions and content. Exams are in two parts for each subject, part A and part B, following the semester plan. All tests are ordered from either Texas Tech University, Texas Tech ISD or The University of Texas at Austin K-16 Education Center and are ordered only one test at a time. Testing is conducted at Cleburne High School by a counselor in the counseling center or another designated professional staff member.

Students who desire to use the College Board Advance Placement Examination or exams administered through the College-Level Examination Program for course credit may do so only if they have not had prior instruction in the course. An application for registration would need to be filled out in the high school counseling office by March 1st, the spring before the credit is anticipated.

More information regarding the test and review sheets may be found on the Texas Tech ISD or UT K-16 Education Center website:

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/uc/ec2k/Heading.asp> or <http://www.utexas.edu/ce/k16/cbe-ea/exams-available>

Results and Acceleration

Students must score a passing grade of “80” on the CBE test to earn credit for acceleration for the applicable course. If students pass with an “80” or better, the course grade will be recorded on the high school transcript and computed in the GPA unless the parent/guardian declines credit in writing within 30 days of being notified of the score.

If students elect to take a College Board advanced placement exam, the student must score a 3 or higher, or a “60” or higher on an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program, to earn credit for acceleration for the applicable course.

If the student does not pass the Credit-By-Exam with a the standard set in EHDC (Local), no credit will be awarded and the grade will not be recorded on my transcript nor will it be computed in my GPA.

Scoring

Scoring of an approved CBE is conducted exclusively by the vendor.

Applications

To register for testing, the student needs to obtain a testing application from his/her school counselor.

Limitations on Taking Examinations

A student may not attempt more than two times to receive credit for a particular subject on the basis of an examination for credit in that subject.

Fees

The District shall not charge for examinations for acceleration if the tests are ordered during the testing window designated by the District. If a parent requests an alternative

examination, the District may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.

Credit by Exams will be offered four times a year. College Board AP exams for credit will be offered one time per year. The CISD Curriculum Department will select and announce administration dates for CBE. Dates will be published on the CISD website.

Provisions for this plan developed using TAC § 74.24, amended May 11, 2014.

*Cleburne Independent School District
Curriculum Dept.
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