



Brazosport Independent School District

Credit-by-Exam Handbook 2019-2020

Introduction

Since 1995, the Texas Education Code has allowed districts to use Credit by Exam (CBE) assessment for acceleration or credit for primary and secondary students.

BISD has joined with the University of Texas in Austin to provide a consistent and quality program for acceleration as well as alternate means to earn credit. All examinations are vigorously field-tested, externally validated, and audited to ensure that assessments thoroughly test the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in the applicable grade level or subject area and that all exams are compliant with state statute regarding the development, validation, and auditing of credit-by-examination tests.

Frequently Asked Questions on Credit by Exam

Q: How can a student earn credit by exam?

A: Students are able to earn credit by exam in a few different ways.

Credit by Examination (K-5)

A student in grades 1-5 must be accelerated one grade if the student scores **80% or higher** on each CBE including language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies for the grade level the student wishes to advance past. Additionally, in order to qualify for acceleration, the student must be recommended by a school district representative (usually the campus principal) and the student's parent or guardian must give written permission.

In accordance with BISD Policy EHDC (Local), a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year may be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include: a). Scores on readiness tests that may be administered by appropriate district personnel. b). Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended. c). Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student. d). Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and superintendent.

Credit by Examination with Prior Instruction (6-12)

Students in grades 6-12 may earn credit by exam if they received prior instruction in a subject area, but did not receive credit for other reasons, such as a failing grade or excessive absences. To receive credit, these students must score a **70% or higher** on a CBE assessment from the University of Texas for that content and grade level area exam.

Credit without Prior Instruction (6-12)

For grades 6-12, students may receive credit based solely on their score on the CBE exam. A school district must give students who score 80% or higher on the board-approved exam credit for the assessment subject area. Students can also receive credit without prior instruction by scoring a three on an advanced placement (AP) exam or a scaled score of 50 or higher on exams administered through the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). Tex. Educ. Code § 28.023(c), (c-1), (h).

Q: Will it cost me anything for my child to take a CBE?

A: No. A school district is prohibited from charging a fee for credit by examination for acceleration. A fully refundable deposit is requested so that the assessment office can order testing materials in a timely manner. The deposit is refunded after the test has been administered. Only in non-acceleration instances where prior instruction has occurred and the student did not receive credit due to grades or other factors will the district charge for the exam. These instances are rare since home campuses already offer other free avenues (Edgenuity) for students to recover credit for failed courses.

Q: How will the test score on a CBE affect my high school grade point average?

A: Numeric grades on the exams for which the student earns credit will be recorded and will be used to calculate the student's grade point average (GPA). EIC (Local)

Q: How many times can my child attempt to pass a CBE?

A: According to Texas Administrative Code §74.24 Credit by Exams (c)(6), a student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course more than two times.

Q: If my child receives credit-by-exam for an EOC course, does he or she have to take the STAAR EOC?

A: If a student is given credit in accordance with paragraph (5) of this subsection in a subject on the basis of an examination on which the student scored 80% or higher, the school district must enter the examination score on the student's transcript, and the student is **not required** to take an applicable end-of-course assessment instrument for the course. (TAC §74.24)

Q: Where can I find study guides for the CBE exams?

A: University of Texas Credit by Exam Study Guides are available on the University of Texas Credit by Exam Website at https://highschool.utexas.edu/cbe_study_guides.

Q: Where can I find a complete list of what CBE exams are available?

A: A complete list of all available CBE exams can be found on the University of Texas Credit by Exam Website at <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/uths-cbe-available>

Q: How do I go about requesting a CBE exam?

A: Complete the appropriate application form found in this manual. Once completed, take the completed form and your refundable deposit to your home campus counselor. Your campus counselor will obtain your principal's signature on the form and send the completed application with refundable deposit to the Office of Compliance and Data Quality at Central Office.

Q: What are the testing dates and application deadlines for 2019-2020?

A: The testing dates and application deadlines for 2019-2020 are as follows:

Application due to Assessment Dept. by:	Test Date
August 23, 2019	September 14, 2019
September 23, 2019	October 12, 2019
October 23, 2019	November 9, 2019
November 21, 2019	December 14, 2019
December 16, 2019	January 11, 2020
January 23, 2020	February 8, 2020
February 24, 2020	March 21, 2020
March 30, 2020	April 18, 2020
April 13, 2020	May 2, 2020
May 18, 2020	June 12, 2020
June 10, 2020 (if needed)	July 10, 2020 (if needed)
July 15, 2020 (if needed)	August 8, 2020 (if needed)

Q: Who is the best person to call if I have further questions about CBE exams?

A: Call the Brazosport ISD Office of Compliance and Data Quality at 979-730-7000. Ask for Carmen Bejarano at extension 35201.

Brazosport Independent School District
Application for Credit by Exam/Acceleration High School Credit



Student ID:	Student Name:		
Home Address:	City:	Zip Code:	
Phone Number:	DOB:	Campus:	
Application Date:	Test Date:	Current Grade:	

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION ON TESTING DAY

CBE Requested: (Maximum of 2 exams/test date)

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SEMESTER(A or B)</u>	<u>*Prior Instruction</u>
1.		Yes ___ No ___
2.		Yes ___ No ___

***Prior instruction is defined as participating in a course with a curriculum that is alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) with a formal evaluation of coursework (formative and summative assessments).**
Prior instruction will be verified prior to testing.
If a student has received prior instruction, they must achieve a score of 70 or above to receive credit for the course. If a student has NOT received prior instruction, they must achieve a score of 80 or above to receive credit for the course.

Attach a check (**made out to BISD**), or cash, to this application.
 \$35 for each exam from UT (\$70 for two tests)
 A \$15 fee will be charged for each test for late, rush, or incomplete order

NOTE: Fees for CBE **with prior** instruction are **non-refundable**
 Fees for CBE **without prior** instruction **will be refunded** after the exam has been taken.

Signatures will indicate that all information on this application is true and correct.

Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature
Counselor Signature	Principal Signature

Payment : Cash Check

Received by Assessment Department: _____ Date: _____

Brazosport Independent School District

APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION FOR ACCELERATION

(Grades K-8)



Student ID:	Student Name:
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Home Address:	City:	Zip:
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Home Phone:	DOB:	Campus:
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Application Date:	Test Date:	Current Grade:
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ELEMENTARY EXAMS (Grade K-6)	GRADE
Language Arts	
Social Studies	
Mathematics	
Science	

INTERMEDIATE EXAMS Grades 7-8:	GRADE
English Language Arts	
Texas History & Geography(7th)	
U.S. History & Citizenship (8th)	
Mathematics	
Science	

Students must take the exams in the above order. Language Arts and Social Studies will be given in the first session. Requests for exams in Mathematics and Science and a second testing date will be dependent on the student meeting 80 or above on the first 2 exams. Student is allowed 2 attempts on each exam per school year.

Reason for this request:

A \$35.00 deposit is required for each test ordered. Please make check payable to BISD.

The following persons have indicated approval by signing this application.

Parent/Guardian

Guidance Counselor

Principal

Payment Received: Check or Cash



Parent and Principal Grade Acceleration Permission Form

After successfully passing (80 or above) the English language arts, social studies, mathematics and science exams, it is recommended that

Student's Name

be accelerated from grade ____ to grade _____. The decision to academically accelerate may be reversed, at any time, by parent or guardian request if it is not academically, socially, or emotionally appropriate for the child.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Principal Signature

Campus

Date