

Credit by Exam Without Prior Instruction Frequently Asked Questions for Elementary and Intermediate Courses 2015-2016

Disclaimer: This document contains frequently asked questions, not every potential scenario is covered. For additional guidance contact your campus CBE coordinator or counselor.

What is Credit by Exam?

Credit by Exam/Exam for Acceleration provides an opportunity to earn grade level or course credit in which no prior formal instruction was completed. Credit by Exam is designed for a very small percentage of students who have an academic and emotional need to advance to the next grade level. Credit by Exam is not designed for grade level advancement after a student has been retained in a previous grade level. Typically less than 5% of students who attempt to skip an entire grade level are successful.

What are the eligibility requirements for a student to register for Credit by Exam?

Students must meet all eligibility requirements to register for CBE testing:

1. Student is enrolled in a Klein ISD school.
2. Kindergarten and First grade students must meet the state law age requirement
 - 5 years old by September 1 to accelerate to First Grade
 - 6 years old by September 1 to accelerate to Second Grade

What are the registration deadlines?

The registration deadline for the November administration is **September 25, 2015.**

The registration deadline for the February administration is **December 11, 2015.**

The registration deadline for the May/June administration is **April 18, 2016.**

The registration deadline for the July/August administration is **June 3, 2016.**

The school CBE coordinator or counselor must sign the registration form to verify the student's grade level and eligibility for either a Klein ISD proctored exam or one proctored by Lone Star College outside of the scheduled test administrations.

Applications must be submitted to your counselor by the end of the school day on the date of the application deadline.

What are the dates for Credit by Exam for this school year?

Klein ISD will offer four CBE test administrations:

November Administration

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Monday, December 7, 2015

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Round I Language Arts

Round II Science

Round II Social Studies

Round II Mathematics

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February Administration

Tuesday, February 2, 2016	Round I Language Arts
Monday, February 29, 2016	Round II Science
Tuesday, March 1, 2016	Round II Social Studies
Wednesday, March 2, 2016	Round II Mathematics

May/June Administration

Tuesday, May 17, 2016	Round I Language Arts
Monday, June 20, 2016	Round II Science
Tuesday, June 21, 2016	Round II Social Studies
Wednesday, June 22, 2016	Round II Mathematics

July/August Administration

Monday, July 11, 2016	Round I Language Arts
Monday, August 8, 2016	Round II Science
Tuesday, August 9, 2016	Round II Social Studies
Wednesday, August 10, 2016	Round II Mathematics

Are the tests administered on paper or online?

The University of Texas offers many CBE exams in both paper and online format. Dependent upon available technology/facility resources and the availability of an online version, Klein ISD plans on administering CBE exams online to students in grades four through twelve. Students in grades kindergarten through three will be administered paper-based exams.

Where is the testing site location, address and required arrival time for testing?

Students will be notified of the testing time, location, address and arrival time in advance of the test administration by the school counselor.

What does Round I and Round II mean?

For students attempting to accelerate in entire grade level, testing will be conducted in two rounds.

- Round I will administer the Language Arts test. If a student scores 80% or above on the Language Arts test they will then advance to Round II testing. If a student does not score a minimum of 80%, they will not be tested in Round II.
- Round II will assess the remaining grade level subjects (Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics) in sequence. Once a student fails to achieve a score of 80% or above on a given assessment, testing will cease.

For students attempting to accelerate in Mathematics at the intermediate level, they will take the CBE on the corresponding subject area date on Round II.

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For students attempting to advance a single grade level, each grade level assessment must be passed before moving to the next subject assessment. Furthermore, those students that attempt to advance multiple grade levels, each grade level sequence of assessments must be passed before advancing to the next grade level sequence of assessments.

Students attempting to accelerate a high school credit course should consult the FAQ for High School Credit Courses for more information.

What are the exceptions for an excused absence from testing?

It is imperative that you notify your campus counselor as soon as possible if you believe you have an excused absence from testing. If a student does not have an excused absence from testing, the student will not be allowed to take CBE without prior instruction for the remainder of the school year.

If my student is unable to test on the dates listed, can my child take the test on a different day?

Klein ISD will strictly adhere to the scheduled testing dates. If students are unable to test on these dates, parents may purchase the tests directly from the University of Texas (UT) and the student will take the CBE at a Klein ISD approved testing site. The Klein ISD approved testing sites are listed below:

The Assessment Center at Lone Star College University Park. Contact information 281-401-5314 for times and fees.

Lone Star College Tomball. Contact information 832-559-4245 for times and fees.

Students should pick up a University of Texas individual registration form from their school counselor, fill out the form completely and submit to the proctor located at Lone Star College for approval. Once approved by Lone Star, the student will return the form to the school counselor for approval (approval means the counselor signature is in the appropriate location on the UT registration form), who will then verify its completion and return to the student for ordering. The student may then fax the registration form to the University of Texas.

Unacceptable Testing Sites & Proctors

The following are unacceptable testing sites: municipal libraries tutoring centers, learning centers, residential homes, churches.

The following are unacceptable proctors: tutors, uncertified teachers and other school personnel, instructors, professors, family members, friends or others with a personal connection to the student.

How can my child study or prepare for the CBE exams?

Review materials may be found at: <http://www.utexas.edu/ce/k16/cbe-ea/study-guides/k-8>. This information includes a list of required supplies which must be provided by the student during testing. Students taking 7th and 8th grade math CBEs must bring a graphing calculator on the day of the test and must understand how to use the calculator.

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Obtaining student textbooks referenced in the study materials is the sole responsibility of the parent.

Only students attempting to advance to 1st grade will have the test administered orally. Students attempting advancement in grades 2 or higher will read the test themselves.

What is the Credit by Exam score requirements to advance a grade level?

- Kindergarten students must score a minimum of 80 percent on both the Mathematics and Reading test to advance to first grade.
- For Grades 1- 8, students must score a minimum of 80 percent or higher on all subject area tests which include Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics.

What test does my student register for if they want to be enrolled in Algebra I?

Students who are enrolled in 7th grade pre-AP math need to speak with their counselors regarding math course selection options.

Students must show mastery of third through eighth grade mathematics, either through completion of each grade level course or a CBE score of 80% or higher per grade level, in order to be enrolled in Algebra 1 for the upcoming school year.

If my student does not score the minimum 80%, will the score be recorded on the student transcript?

Scores below 80% will not be recorded on the student's permanent transcript.

If my student does not score the minimum 80%, can they retake the exam?

Retesting is not available.

After my child has taken the CBE exam can I review the exam questions for further study?

The Klein ISD will not allow the release of any secure CBE assessments.

When will we receive the CBE results?

- If the student is registered for multiple tests, results from the Round I testing will be communicated to parents by the campus counselor approximately one week after testing. If the student is only registered for one test, results from the Round 1 testing will be emailed two to four weeks after testing.
- Results from Round II testing in Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics will be provided at the completion of the testing day.
- Hard copies via US Mail will only be provided on request.

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What will happen if the results are not received before the first day of school?

The Credit by Exam schedule is designed with the intention that parents and campuses will receive the CBE results before the start of the school year. However, if the CBE Round II results are not received by the first day of school, the student will begin the school year in the current enrolled grade level. If the student does meet the criteria to advance to the next grade level, the student will be moved to the new grade level.

Can my student accelerate mid-year via the credit by exam program?

Klein ISD will offer four CBE without prior instruction testing windows each calendar year. The fourth quarter testing window will occur prior to the beginning of the second semester, thus allowing for a student to accelerate mid-year. For example, a student enrolled in 6th grade in the fall of 2015 takes and passes all 7th grade CBEs before leaving for winter break would be placed in the second semester of 7th grade during the spring semester and will start 8th grade the following school year.

When are students able to take a “Course” assessment in lieu of a “Grade Level” assessment?

Students currently enrolled in intermediate school may seek course advancement during the school year and the summer. Visit your campus counselor for more information and available test dates. Elementary students seeking course advancement will have to wait until enrolled at the intermediate level to pursue course advancement (in lieu of grade advancement).

Are there provisions for students who are homeless or in substitute care?

Yes, only students classified homeless or in substitute care who transfer to the district after the start of the school year shall be provided an opportunity to be administered credit by exam at any point during the school year. Credit shall be awarded proportionately to a student who successfully completed only one semester of a two-semester course.