

**Examinations for
Acceleration or
Course Credit**

If a student in grades 1–12 wishes to accelerate to the next grade level or earn course credit without having received prior instruction in the grade level or course, the School shall offer opportunities in accordance with state law and State Board rules for the student to take a Board-approved examination for this purpose.

With Board approval, the School shall develop or purchase examinations for acceleration that thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills for each primary school grade level and for credit for secondary school academic subjects.

Kindergarten Grade 5

The School shall develop procedures for kindergarten acceleration that are approved by the board.

The School shall accelerate a student in grades 1–5 one grade level if the student meets the following requirements:

1. The student scores 80 percent or above on a criterion referenced test for the grade level to be skipped in each of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
2. A School representative recommends that the student be accelerated; and
3. The student's parent or guardian gives written approval of the acceleration.

19 TAC 74.24(b)

Grades 6-12

The School shall give a student in grades 6–12 credit for an academic subject in which the student has received no prior instruction if the student scores:

1. A three or higher on a College Board advanced placement examination that has been approved by the board for the applicable course;

A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and approved by the board for the applicable course; or

2. 80 percent or above on any other criterion-referenced test approved by the board for the applicable course. If a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination on which the student scored 80 percent or higher, the School shall enter the examination score on the student's transcript and the student is not required to take

an end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(c) for the course.

**BOARD-APPROVED
EXAMINATIONS**

The board shall approve for each high school course, to the extent available, at least four examinations that shall include College Board advanced placement examinations and examinations administered through CLEP.

Test Selection

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for development or selection of tests to be used to grant credit to students who have not had prior instruction in a subject area or grade level. Whether tests are developed by the School or purchased from a State Board of Education-approved university or other appropriate source, each examination will thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills in the applicable grade level or subject area.

Test Dates

The School shall determine testing windows to include the summer months so that appropriate scheduling can occur.

The School will provide opportunities for a student who is homeless or in substitute care who transfers to TSD after the start of the school year to be administered a CBE at any point during the school year.

**Kindergarten
Acceleration
Process**

Parents of a kindergarten student may request that their child be considered for acceleration to first grade. The request for acceleration must be made in writing to the principal. Students considered for acceleration into first grade must score 80 percent or above on a School-approved assessment. Procedures will be as follows:

1. The principal will set up a conference prior to the first day of instruction. Included in the conference will be the parent or guardian, the principal, and the child's kindergarten teacher and other staff deemed appropriate by the principal.
2. The conference will be used to gather background information about the child, to share kindergarten and first-grade curricula with parents, and to determine if additional steps are necessary.
3. The parents or guardian will be given the opportunity to present evidence that suggests the child is likely to meet success in the first grade, such as former teacher reports, student work, and the like.
4. A decision to keep the child in kindergarten may be made at this time, or if there is evidence that suggests the child may be successful in first grade, additional information may be collected.

5. A plan of action for accommodating the child in first grade or kindergarten will be presented to the parents or guardian. Careful consideration will be given to the child's performance expectations and the impact of this decision on the child's entire school career. The final decision will rest with the principal.

If the decision is to administer credit by examination for acceleration, the following will apply:

1. These examinations will be administered and scored by a school designee.
2. Based on the test results, chronological age, observed social and emotional development of the student, and other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal, the ARD committee will decide if the student may accelerate to the next grade level.
3. A written statement of the principal's approval and documentation justifying the approval for acceleration will be placed in the student's cumulative folder.

Elementary Grades
1–5 or 6
Acceleration

A parent or guardian of an elementary student (grades 1–5) may request that his or her child be considered for acceleration. The student must not have had prior instruction at that grade level and subject, must follow the registration procedure in this regulation, and must secure the principal's recommendation for acceleration. Parents must sign appropriate forms indicating that they have requested the opportunity for acceleration by credit by examination for the enrolled child and confirming a lack of prior instruction at the accelerated (targeted) grade level to which the child is hoping to advance. Documentation of these approvals will be placed in the student's cumulative folder.

Elementary students may register to take credit by examination for acceleration for the next school year but may not take examinations for acceleration after the first 21 days of a given school year.

Secondary Grades
6–12 Acceleration

Secondary students (grades 6–12) may take a specific School approved examination for credit for acceleration, providing they have not had prior instruction in the course.

**Registration
Procedures**

A student enrolled in the School and a student entering the School from a nonaccredited public, private, or parochial school, including a homeschool, who wishes to take an examination for acceleration, or a parent wishing to have his or her child tested for acceleration, must apply through the school principal. If a student is currently enrolled in TSD, the principal's signature must be secured as verification that the student's records do not indicate prior instruction in the course.

Kindergarten students will be tested for acceleration during the summer months and must be completed prior to the first day of the new school year.

Fees

A student who meets the School's criteria for credit by examination with prior instruction will not be charged a fee for an administration by the School on a designated testing date.

Passing Score

The School will give a student in grades 6–12 credit for an academic subject in which the student has received no prior instruction if the student scores:

1. Eighty percent or above on a criterion-referenced examination for acceleration for the applicable course; or
2. A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination approved by the Board and administered through the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).

If such credit is given, the School will enter the examination score on the student's transcript and the student is not required to take an end-of-course assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(c) for that subject.

A failing score on an examination will not be recorded on the transcript. A passing examination grade will not be calculated into the student's final yearly grades.

A credit earned through credit by examination will be recorded on the transcript as completed course.

Retesting

If the student does not receive a passing score on the credit by examination with prior instruction administered by the School, the student may retest one time for the failed test at his or her own expense through one of the university centers. If the student fails the exam, the student will then be required to take the course in order to earn the credit.

A student will not be permitted to rescind a request for credit through credit by examination once the test has been completed.