



## Secondary Guidelines for Credit by Exam (CBE) and Exam for Acceleration (EA)

### Definition & Purpose

Credit by Exam (CBE) and Exam for Acceleration (EA) are terms that are occasionally used interchangeably, but they are not utilized for the same purpose.

**Credit by Exam (CBE)** - Utilized to earn credit for a course, when a student has had prior instruction, and under the following conditions:

1. The student is enrolling in the District from a non accredited school;
2. The student has failed a subject or course; or
3. The student has earned a passing grade in a subject or course but has failed to earn credit because of excessive absences

*Students must demonstrate mastery of 70% or higher on a CBE to earn credit. For students currently enrolled in FISD, the first condition does not apply and they would have to follow the Exam for Acceleration criteria.*

**Exam for Acceleration (EA)** - Provides an opportunity to earn grade level or course credit in which *no prior formal instruction* was completed. The EA is designed for a very small percentage of learners who have both the academic and emotional need to advance a course. Exam for Acceleration is not designed for grade level recovery when a student is retained in a previous grade level. Students must demonstrate mastery of 80% or higher on an EA to earn credit.

The only students that should take an EA for acceleration are those who display an extremely advanced level of understanding of the learning objectives assessed on the EA which will be the grade level/course above the grade level/course in which your child is currently enrolled.

### **Eligibility to Register for CBE & EA Assessments**

- Only students currently enrolled at a Frisco ISD campus are eligible to apply for a Credit by Exam or Exam for Acceleration assessment.
- Students may earn credit for acceleration *without prior instruction* in the subject area or grade level being tested (EHDC Legal). This policy provides acceleration without prior instruction by grade level in grades K-5 or course credit at the secondary level (grades 6 through 12).
- Once an Exam for Acceleration has been passed, it may not be taken again.
- In grades 6 - 8, an EA in the same subject may not be taken more than twice.
- Per Texas Education Code §74.24(6), a student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course more than two times.

- Per Texas Education Code §74.24(7), If a student fails to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course before the beginning of the school year in which the student would ordinarily be required to enroll in that course in accordance with the school district's prescribed course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit.
- Students may only accelerate in one course per subject per testing window. (Example: a 6th grade math assessment and a 7th grade math assessment cannot be taken in the same testing window)

## **AWARDING CREDIT**

After successful completion of a CBE or an EA taken for high school credit, the numerical score earned will be posted to the student's high school transcript and the student will earn high school credit. The transcribed credit will not be calculated into the student's grade point average (GPA) for ranking purposes. For middle school courses, the student's CBE or EA numerical score will be documented in the student's permanent academic record. Scores that are not meeting the passing standard are not documented in the student's high school transcript or middle school permanent record.

## **PAYMENT**

**Credit by Exam (CBE)** - Students who register for Credit by Exam with prior instruction will be responsible for the cost of the exam.

**Exam for Acceleration (EA)** - While there is no charge to parents when students take an EA, there is a cost to the district for both the test and the proctor who monitors the exam as it is given. Therefore, please carefully consider availability during the testing window before completing the application and gather input from educators and/or counselors to determine whether or not acceleration is in the best interest of the student.

Students who register for an examination and do not take the exam will be required to pay for the cost of procuring the examination, including charges for shipping and handling. This can cost up to \$75.

## **DATES/TESTING WINDOWS**

<http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/testing/acceleration-credit-by-exam>

### **Secondary Testing:**

Exam for Acceleration (without prior instruction) is available to sixth through twelfth grade students who wish to test for advancement in a course. Examinations for grades 6-12 are criterion-referenced tests from Texas Tech University, University of Texas, or other testing instruments approved by the Superintendent or designee. Students are

encouraged to review the course study guide on the university website. Frisco ISD will not provide review or study materials for Exams for Acceleration.

- [Texas Tech University](#)
- [University of Texas](#)

A student in any of Grades 6-12 must be given credit for an academic subject in which he or she has had no prior instruction if the student scores:

- A. a three or higher on a College Board advanced placement examination that has been approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course;
- B. a scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program and approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course; or
- C. 80% on any other criterion-referenced test approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course.

### **Testing Specifics:**

- The EA's purpose is not to inform parents about a student's academic performance or progress. An EA *will not* provide information regarding objectives or skills missed. Knowing a score or how many questions a student missed does not help in guiding instruction. Frisco ISD assesses students throughout the year with a variety of formative and summative assessments that provide parents with information regarding how a student is performing academically.
- *If an Exam for Acceleration is passed, your child will be accelerated.* If you do not want your student to accelerate or are not sure you want him/her to accelerate, your child should not take an EA.
- A student must earn credit for one course/grade level as a prerequisite to attempt an Exam for Acceleration for the next course/grade level. A student may take an Exam for Acceleration for the next course/grade level if he or she is projected to meet the end-of-the year passing requirements for the current course/grade level.

### **Additional Considerations:**

- Transportation- As a middle school student your child may need to attend the high school in order to take his/her next course. Transportation to and from the high school is the parent's responsibility.
- Master schedule- We cannot guarantee the alignment between the middle school and high school master schedules. Your child may be limited in the times and formats (e.g., online, distance learning, etc...) in which the class is offered.
- Social maturity – When advancing a course, your child's social and emotional maturity may not match the maturity level of the other students in the course.
- Student desire- A student should have the desire and drive to accelerate and maintain the workload of the higher level class.

- Teacher/counselor recommendation- Teachers and counselors see your student on a daily basis and may be able to provide additional information regarding whether or not acceleration would be appropriate.
- Course opportunities later in high school- In some situations, accelerating now may put your child in a position where he/she is limited in course options as a high school junior or senior. Make sure you are clear on the ultimate goal of acceleration.
- High school courses taken in middle school are averaged into a child's high school grade point average (GPA) which does impact class ranking.
- Exam for Acceleration testing that would provide a student the opportunity to double accelerate should be given careful consideration. Double acceleration is only appropriate for a small number of students.

### **Middle School Students**

Students in 6-8th grade may take exams for acceleration and earn course credit per Frisco ISD Board policy EHDC (LEGAL).

At the middle school level, students who accelerate in math beyond Algebra 2, 8th Integrated Language Arts, 8th Science, or 8th US History will be required to take the next course in the district's prescribed course sequence at the high school campus or in an online format from the TX-Virtual School Network, University of Texas, or Texas Tech during the school day. Frisco ISD will select the online course. Students may only take the accelerated course at the high school campus if scheduling permits and the student is able to provide his/her own transportation. To accommodate the A/B day schedule at the high school, a student may take an additional course at the high school to balance the accelerated course, but that course may only be a high school credited course that is offered at the middle school. Currently, the only course options would be Spanish I and Health. Students taking an accelerated course in an online format will be provided a class period during the school day and will be expected to work on the course during that period. A proctor will supervise the students and assist with any technical issues. Courses taken via TX-VSN, UT, or Texas Tech will not count in the student's GPA for ranking but will count for high school credit. Additionally, online courses are not at the pre-AP level.

### **Middle School Math Information**

- If you want your child to earn Algebra I credit in middle school, your child does not need to take an Exam for Acceleration. Instead, register your child for the following course path in middle school:
  - In 6th grade, your student should take on-level or Pre-AP 6th grade math.
  - In 7th grade, your student should take Pre-AP 7th grade math.
  - In 8th grade, your student will be eligible to take Pre-AP Algebra I.

Students are strongly discouraged from accelerating through Algebra I. There are multiple pathways for students to accelerate at other times that do not create potential gaps in an incredibly foundational course. The Algebra I course allows students to fully comprehend and build strong foundations in middle school math concepts and paves the road for a deep understanding of high school math content.

Acceleration through Algebra I for Math 7 or PAP Math 7 students is considered double acceleration. Both Math 7 as well as PAP Math 7 students must demonstrate mastery of 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS before attempting the Algebra I EA. PAP Math 7 students will have mastered only half of the Grade 8 standards through instruction in the course. The remainder of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards are embedded in Frisco ISD's PAP Algebra I course. Students wishing to accelerate through Algebra I will have to demonstrate mastery of 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards first.

