

Denison Independent School District Assessment and Accountability

Credit by Exam (CBE) & Exam for Acceleration (EA) 2020-2021 Administrative Procedures

2020-2021 Exam Dates

In accordance with the guidelines set by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Credit by Exams (CBE) and Exams for Acceleration (AE) are offered to Denison students four times during the academic year. The sessions listed in the chart below are published in the current Denison Student/Parent Handbook and on the District website.

2020-21 Exam Dates	2020-21 Registration Deadline
October 12-16, 2020	September 3, 2020
February 8-11, 2021	December 17, 2020
June 7-10, 2021	April 29, 2021
July 11-15, 2021	May 20, 2021

Denison ISD Credit by Exam procedures align with Board Policy that address Alternative Methods for Earning Credit.

- EHDB (LEGAL) & EHDB (LOCAL) – Credit by Examination With Prior Instruction
 - EHDC (LEGAL) & EHDC (LOCAL) – Credit by Examination Without Prior Instruction
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Credit by Exam and Exam for Acceleration 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:

- The student is enrolling in the District from a non-accredited school;
- The student has failed a subject or course; or
- 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 DISD, 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 or EA Assessments

- Only students currently enrolled at a Denison ISD campus are eligible to apply for 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).
- 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.
- Per Texas Education Code §74.24(6), a student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific grade level or course more than two times.
- In grades 6 and above, an EA in the same subject may not be taken more than twice.
- 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)

Payment

Exam for Acceleration (AE) - 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 \$75.00.

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

Kindergarten – Grade 5 Exam for Acceleration Without Prior Instruction

Exam for Acceleration (without prior instruction) is available to Kindergarten through fifth grade students who wish to test for advancement to the next grade level. Examinations for Kindergarten – grade 5 are criterion-referenced tests from Texas Tech University, University of Texas, or other testing instruments approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Elementary students must take exams in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies for the grade level he or she wishes to accelerate. Students are encouraged to review the course study guide on the university website.

A district shall accelerate a student in Kindergarten – grade 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 district representative recommends that the student be accelerated; and
3. The student's parent or guardian gives written approval of the acceleration.

Exam results will be made available to the counselor after scoring is completed.

Placement in a new grade will only occur at the start of a school year regardless of when an exam for acceleration is taken.

Grades 6-12 Exam for Acceleration Without Prior Instruction

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. Denison ISD will not provide review or study materials for Exams for Acceleration.

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:

1. 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;
2. 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
3. 80% on any other criterion-referenced test approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course.

Grades 6-12 Credit by Exam With Prior Instruction

Students under certain circumstances may be able to take Credit by Exam for a course in which they have had prior instruction but did not receive credit. The principal or designee, or the attendance committee, as applicable, shall have authority to offer a student the opportunity to demonstrate mastery in a subject or to earn course credit by examination when the student has had prior instruction in a subject and when:

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.

Examinations shall assess the student's mastery of the essential knowledge and skills and shall be administered according to established District procedures. Prior to offering a student an opportunity to demonstrate mastery or earn credit by this method, an appropriate District employee shall review the student's educational records to determine whether the student has had prior instruction in the subject or course. Students who attended school in a foreign country which was taught in a language other than English may also qualify to test that language (French, Spanish, German) with prior instruction. Students are encouraged to review the course objectives provided on the university website.

Students must demonstrate 70% or higher mastery on the exams. Applications are available from the school counselor. There is a fee for each semester exam.

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.

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. Denison 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.
- 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 not averaged into a child's high school grade point average (GPA) which does not impact class ranking.

Middle School Students

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

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.