

POLICY

Credit By Examination: With Prior Instruction

A student in any of grades 6–12 may be given credit for an academic subject in which he or she has had some prior instruction if the student scores 70% or higher on a criterion-referenced test for the applicable course. Education Code 28.023; 19 TAC 74.24(c)(3).

The Principal or designee shall have authority to offer the 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 School from a nonaccredited 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 School procedures.

Prior to offering a student an opportunity to demonstrate mastery or earn credit by this method, an appropriate School employee shall review the student's records to determine whether the student has had prior instruction in the subject or course.

Credit By Examination: Without Prior Instruction

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.

A student in any of grades 1–5 may be accelerated one grade level if he or she meets the following requirements:

1. The student scores 90% 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.

Education Code 28.023(b), 19 TAC 74.24(b).

Grades 6–12

A student in any of grades 6–12 shall be given credit for an academic subject in which he or she has had no prior instruction if the student scores 90% or above on a criterion-referenced test for the applicable test. If such credit is given, the School shall enter the examination score on the student's transcript.

Kindergarten Acceleration

The Board shall approve procedures developed by the Chief Executive Officer or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include:

1. Scores on readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate School personnel.
2. Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended.
3. Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student.
4. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the Principal and Chief Executive Officer.

Test Selection

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall be responsible for the development or selection of tests a student may use to earn course credit or accelerate to the next grade level without prior instruction in a course or grade level. Each examination shall thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills in the applicable course or grade level.

Special Requests

The School may deny a parent's or student's request for an alternative examination or alternative date.

Credit Approval

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall award course credit or approve acceleration on the basis of an examination for acceleration, in accordance with State Board rules.

Annual Administration of Exams

The Chief Executive Officer or designee shall establish a schedules of dates, in accordance with law, when examinations for acceleration shall be administered in grades 1 through 12. The dates must be publicized in the community. 19 TAC 74.24(a)(1).

The School may allow a student to accelerate at a time other than those selected by the Chief Executive Officer or designee by developing a cost-free option approved by the Board that allows students to demonstrate academic achievement or proficiency in a subject or grade level. 19 TAC 74.24(a)(4).

Fees

The School shall not charge for an examination for acceleration administered on the published dates or alternate dates. The student's parent shall pay for an alternative examination approved by the School. 19 TAC 74.24(a)(2).