

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR EARNING CREDIT
CREDIT BY EXAMINATION WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTION

EHDC
(REGULATION)

**Examinations for
Acceleration or
Course Credit**

With the prior written consent of the parent or legal guardian, or if the student is an adult, a student in grades 1–12 shall be eligible to accelerate to the next grade level or to earn course credit by examination. The District shall offer opportunities in accordance with state law and State Board rules for the student to take a Board-approved examination for this purpose.

**Criteria for
Kindergarten
Acceleration**

The District shall 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. A student considered for acceleration must meet the chronological age requirement of entering kindergarten students.

Criteria for acceleration shall include the following:

1. A score at the 70th percentile or above on an appropriate norm-referenced assessment. Assessments shall include items that ensure the kindergarten language arts and mathematics benchmarks have been mastered.
2. Recommendation for acceleration from the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended.
3. Completion of a checklist of observed social and emotional development of the student by parents and prior teachers.
4. Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and Superintendent of Schools.

End-of-school-year promotion to grade 2 shall be based on student achievement.

**Acceleration
Grades 1–5**

The District 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 District representative recommends that the student be accelerated; and
3. The student's parent or guardian gives written approval of the acceleration.

**Course Credit:
Grades 6–12**

For students in grades 6–12 seeking to earn course credit by examination without prior instruction, the District shall offer four examinations annually, in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 74.24 (b)(1) and Education Code 28.023. These assessments include College Board-approved Advanced Placement (AP) exams,

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College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, tests developed by Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin, and other tests approved by state law and the District's Board.

Opportunities to earn credit by examination without prior instruction shall be offered four times per year during specified testing windows determined by the administration unless administration dates are determined by an entity outside the District. Testing dates will be published annually and school counselors at individual campuses can be contacted for specific relevant testing information.

Criteria for credit by examination shall include the following:

1. A score of 80 percent on tests developed by Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.
2. A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam.
3. A scaled score of 50 or higher on a CLEP exam.
4. A score determined to be appropriate by the administration will be the criteria for any additional tests approved by the Board.

Course Credit for
LOTE (Languages
Other Than
English):
Grades 6 –12

A student who wishes to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English may be given the appropriate TEA-approved credit by examination from the University of Texas at Austin or Texas Tech University during one of the four specified testing windows. The criteria for receiving course credit for students taking one of these exams for LOTE is a score of 80 percent.

In addition to the aforementioned tests, on November 4, 2021, the Board approved the use of Avant STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) tests to assess students' abilities in foreign language. [See EHDB(XHIBIT) and EHDC(XHIBIT)]

Students achieving specific performance levels on an approved language proficiency test may be awarded credit as outlined below. These language proficiency levels equate to a performance of 80 percent or above and thereby meet the standard set by the state.

Level I: Novice Mid to Novice High Proficiency

Level II: Novice High to Intermediate Low Proficiency

Level III: Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid Proficiency

Level IV: Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High Proficiency

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Limits on Taking
Examinations

A student cannot attempt to receive course credit in a particular subject more than two times. A student who receives credit by examination in a subject in which an end-of-course (EOC) assessment is offered will be exempt from taking the EOC in that subject area.

There shall be no charge for credit by examination when taken within the four posted testing windows. The District shall administer and recognize the results of an alternative examination if purchased by the parent/legal guardian or adult student from an approved District vendor.