

2023-2024 Credit by Exam for Acceleration Questions & Answers

For Questions & Answers about World Language Credit by Exam for Acceleration, please contact Dr. Carri Eddy at ceddy@crandall-isd.net.

CBE (Credit by Exam) registration forms are available from your campus counselor. Your child must meet with the counselor prior to the registration deadline to determine the appropriate CBE to be taken. CBE registration forms will not be emailed or available at the campus office, they must be obtained from the campus counselor prior to the registration deadline.

Crandall ISD uses CBE's that are ordered from Texas Tech University.

Why should my child take a CBE?

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

Credit by Exam/Exam for Acceleration provides an opportunity to earn grade level or course credit in which no prior formal instruction was completed. Credit by Exam is designed for a very small percentage of learners who have *both* the academic and emotional need to advance a course. Credit by Exam is **not** designed for grade level recovery when a learner is retained in a previous grade level. *For a student to accelerate in grades K-6, the student must take exams for the four core subjects for both the fall semester & the spring semester & earn an 80% or higher on EACH of the eight exams. The student will test in reading language arts, mathematics, science, & social studies for the grade that he/she is trying to accelerate through.*

Will a CBE let me know how my child is performing academically?

No, a CBE will only provide information as to whether a student accelerates or not. A CBE *will not* provide information regarding objectives or skills missed. Crandall ISD assesses students throughout the year with a variety of assessments that will give parents information regarding how a student is performing academically.

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What if I'm not sure if I want my child to accelerate?

If you do not want your child to accelerate or are not sure you want him/her to accelerate, your child should not take a CBE. *If a CBE for acceleration is passed, your child will be accelerated.* Example: A 7th grade student wants

to accelerate through 7th grade math and begin their 7th grade year in 8th grade math. The student takes the 7th grade math CBE for acceleration. If the student passes the 7th grade math CBE, the student will be enrolled in 8th grade math for their 7th grade school year. Therefore, please make certain you want your child to accelerate prior to applying for and having your child take a CBE.

Who is eligible to register to take a CBE?

- Only enrolled Crandall ISD (CISD) students are eligible to register for a Credit by Exam assessment.
- Students may only register with their campus counselor prior to the registration deadlines. Please view the [Crandall ISD website](#) for dates.
- Enrolled CISD learners 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 a CBE for acceleration has been passed, it may not be taken again.
- In grades 6 or above, a CBE in the same subject may not be taken more than twice. However, please note the bullet above; once a CBE for acceleration has been passed, it may not be taken again.

What should be considered before registering my child to take a CBE?

- ***If your child is in high school***, strongly consider the impact a passed CBE will have on your child's GPA. The passed CBE is considered an "On Grade Level" course which could negatively impact your child's GPA if he/she is used to taking upper-level courses. *A CBE cannot be counted as a dual-credit or Advanced Placement (AP) course.*
- ***If your child is in high school & takes a CBE to accelerate & passes with the required score, the score WILL be entered on the student's transcript, & the learner WILL be accelerated.*** The purpose of CBEs for acceleration IS to ACCELERATE. It is not to see how a child is performing in a grade level or course for which he or she has not yet had instruction. Therefore, if your child takes a CBE for acceleration &

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achieves the passing score, your child will be accelerated & the score cannot be removed from the TRANSCRIPT.

- ***If you want your child to earn algebra 1 credit in middle school***, it is not necessary for your child to take a CBE. Instead, speak with your child's counselor for clarification on what math classes to take for your child to take algebra 1 in 8th grade.
- High school level courses are not available at the middle school campus. Therefore, middle school students who accelerate may need to take courses at the high school (if scheduling allows) or online. Online courses count as "On Grade Level" toward the student's GPA. Transportation to the high school is not provided by Crandall Independent School District.
- For younger learners, social & emotional factors may come into play for children who accelerate. Excellent books to read on this subject are:
 - ***MisEducation*** by David Elkind
 - ***The Hurried Child*** by David Elkind
- Please consider that your child will most likely be younger than his classroom peers. This may become a factor when peers begin to date, drive, or graduate high school. "Fitting in" may be difficult.

How will passing a CBE impact my child's Grade Point Average?

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- **If a learner takes a CBE to accelerate and passes with the required score, the score will be entered on the student's transcript, & the learner will be accelerated.** The purpose of CBEs for acceleration *is to accelerate*. It is not to see how a learner is performing at a grade level or course for which he or she has not yet had instruction. *Therefore, if your child takes a CBE for acceleration and achieves the passing score, your child will be accelerated, & the score cannot be removed from the transcript.*
- Please consider the next three bullets carefully for students taking a course CBE for acceleration.
 - When a learner passes a CBE instead of taking a course, it counts as an "On Grade Level" course. This may have a negative impact on your child's Grade Point Average since a *CBE cannot be counted as a dual-credit or Advanced Placement (AP) course.*
 - Not all high school level courses are offered on a middle school campus. Therefore, middle school learners who accelerate may need to take courses at high school or online. Online courses count as "On Grade Level" toward a Grade Point Average (GPA).
 - Transportation to the high school is not provided by the Crandall Independent School District. It is the responsibility of the

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parent/guardian to transport the child to the high school campus for instruction.

How does accelerating an elementary grade level impact my child?

- For younger learners, social and emotional factors may come into play for children who accelerate. Excellent books to read on this subject are:
 - **MisEducation** by David Elkind
 - **The Hurried Child** by David Elkind
- Please consider that your child will most likely be younger than his classroom peers. This may become a factor when peers begin to date, drive, or graduate from high school. "Fitting in" could be difficult & they may experience social isolation.
- Some students may have trouble adjusting to a new academic rigor. As students advance in grades, the workload increases as well. A student who previously breezed through work may face unprepared academic pressures.
- Students may find it challenging to maintain their excellent academic performance & may fall behind in a higher grade despite excelling in their previous class.

If my child is in Gifted & Talented, is high-achieving, or earns all high grades, can I expect that he or she will pass a CBE for acceleration?

The content of each CBE is based on a course which your child *has not previously taken*. Therefore, without *significant preparation* (see preparation links below), your child *will not* have the content knowledge to pass a CBE for acceleration. *Regardless of the academic level of the student, intensive preparation for the exam is needed to pass with the required 80%. A student may be a high achieving learner in their current grade level, but that knowledge base is not sufficient to pass the test. **A student must be thoroughly prepared by learning the TEKS of the course which he or she is attempting to skip.** Typically, less than 10% meet the passing score of 80%. **Therefore, no child should be expected to take any exam for which he/she has not thoroughly prepared.***

How does my child prepare for a CBE?

Exam content is based on the [Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills \(TEKS\)](#). To view Credit by Exam review sheets, find out prerequisite materials/reading to complete prior to testing, or to find out more information about the CBE

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your child will take, please visit the [Texas Tech University Credit by Exams website](#). *Obtaining study materials and preparing for a CBE is the sole responsibility of the parent and/or student.*

How do I know which CBEs are available?

To view a list of available exams, please visit the [Texas Tech Credit by Exams website](#).

Do I have to pay for my child to take a CBE?

- While there is no charge to take a CBE, 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 your schedule to ensure your child can be present the day of the exam and gather input from your child's educator and counselor as to whether he or she is a candidate for acceleration ([EHDC Local](#)).
- CBEs with prior instruction cost the parent or guardian the price of the exam that is ordered from the [Texas Tech Credit by Exams website](#) ([EHDB Local](#))

How do I find out the registration deadlines and testing dates the district has for CBE testing?

The [district website](#) has a District Testing Calendar that provides both registration deadlines and testing dates.

The path to access the information is:

- Departments
- Assessment
- Assessment Calendar – tab on the left

If my family is not in town on the testing dates provided by Crandall ISD, may my child test on a different day?

Crandall ISD will only provide CBE testing on the dates listed on the District Assessment Calendar; there are no exceptions. Therefore, if your child is unable to test on one of the dates offered by the district, parents may purchase a CBE exam directly from Texas Tech University & hire a test administrator to proctor the exams for the student. The district is not involved in this process, so the parent must:

- Follow the directions on the [Texas Tech University website](#).
 - The student/parent will need to speak with the school counselor.
 - Prepare for the exam by downloading the CBE review sheets provided by TTU.
 - Enroll in the exam & determine when he/she will take the exam.

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- Take the exam.
- Return your results to your school counselor.
 - Remember if the student has not had any prior instruction, he/she must make 80% or higher to receive credit.
 - If the student has received prior instruction, he/she must make a 70% or higher to receive credit.

What if my child did not pass the CBE, and I'd like him/her to take it again. However, I didn't register for the next district CBE testing window and/or there isn't another district CBE testing window before the school year starts?

Parents may purchase a CBE exam directly from Texas Tech University and hire a test administrator to proctor the exams for the student. The district is *not involved* in this process, so the parent must:

- Follow the directions on the [Texas Tech University website](#).
 - The student/parent will need to speak with the school counselor.
 - Prepare for the exam by downloading the CBE review sheets provided by TTU.
 - Enroll in the exam & determine when he/she will take the exam.
 - Take the exam.
 - Return your results to your school counselor.
 - Remember if the student has not had any prior instruction, he/she must make 80% or higher to receive credit.
 - If the student has received prior instruction, he/she must make a 70% or higher to receive credit.

Please note: Regardless of the date a CBE for acceleration is taken, placement in a new year-long course or grade level will take place prior to the first day of school. If the acceleration is for a semester course, acceleration will take place prior to the first day of the semester in which the course will be taken. Acceleration will not take place once a semester has started.

The *only* exception is the Fall CBE testing window, which is for new enrollees. These learners did not have the chance to take a CBE during the summer, so the Assessment Office provides new students the same opportunity for acceleration that our currently enrolled learners have.

Please remember that for a student to accelerate in grades K-6:

- The student must take exams for the four core subjects for both the fall semester & the spring semester.
- The student must earn 80% or higher on EACH of the EIGHT exams.

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- The student will take two tests in:
 - Reading Language Arts (RLA)
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies

How do I register my child to take a CBE?

Please contact your campus counselor before the registration deadline, so you or your child may receive the application form and discuss CBE options. Due to busy schedules and other commitments, it is advisable to contact your campus counselor at least three days before the registration deadline.

When will I receive communication from the district regarding my CBE registration?

Within two weeks after the registration deadline, an email will be sent to the email address on the application confirming receipt of the application. During the two weeks after registration closes, counselors will verify application information to ensure the learner is slated to take the appropriate CBE. Since the email will be sent to the email address listed on the application, please enter the email address accurately to ensure receipt of all communication from the district regarding your child's CBE registration. If the email is not received within two weeks after the registration deadline, please check your Spam or Junk folder.

One week prior to test administration, an email will be sent which contains all testing information, including the testing location, date(s), and time for arrival.

What if I change my mind & decide I do not want my child to take the CBE for which I have registered him/her?

Please contact the Assessment Department by email at jcoward@crandall-isd.net as soon as the decision is made. Your child's name will be removed from the list of those taking CBE assessments.

Are CBE exams online or on paper?

The CBE vendor CISD uses is Texas Tech University, which offers exams both online & on paper. CISD generally uses paper exams for flexibility purposes.

What must my child bring on the day of the test?

Your child must bring a student photo ID, such as a school ID, drivers' license, school yearbook photo, etc. Pictures must be current to allow for facial identification.

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What if my child arrives late?

Late arrivals will not be allowed to test. Therefore, allow for additional time for unexpected traffic, construction, forgetting a photo ID, or any other unforeseen issue.

What if my child forgets to bring a student photo ID?

No one will be allowed to take the test without a student photo ID.

May I bring a digital device that has my child's photo ID on it?

Pictures of photo IDs on digital devices will not be accepted.

May my child use a parent's photo ID instead of a student photo ID?

A parent's photo ID will not be accepted. The photo must be of the learner who is being assessed.

Other than a student photo ID, what else does my child need to bring on the day of the test?

There is nothing else your child needs to bring. **All needed testing materials will be provided by the district, such as pencils, calculators, scratch paper, etc.** No bags, backpacks, purses, etc. will be allowed in the testing room.

May my child bring a water bottle or snack?

Your child may bring a water bottle or snack. Any water bottles and/or snacks will be carried by hand into the testing room. Your child may partake of these items, as needed; however, the time taken to partake of the water or snack will be part of the three hours allowed for testing.

What calculator does the district provide for CBE tests that require calculator use?

For Math/Science CBEs: **Outside calculators are allowed.**

- For any students who do not have their own calculator, Crandall ISD will provide one.
- All calculators must have the memory cleared before entering the testing room. If the memory is not cleared the calculator will not be allowed.

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Do I need to stay at the testing site while my child is taking the Credit by Exam test(s)?

- **Learners Testing in Grades 1-5:**

Parents are required to stay in the building in the designated waiting area during the testing time; there are no exceptions, so please plan accordingly. This is for the safety of our learners since we do not collect medical information. Learners may be testing for up to six hours, so please bring items with you to occupy your time. Parents may not leave for any reason after checking in their learner for testing, so please remember to bring all items you may need, such as a laptop, phone, etc. There are no food or drink items available for purchase.

- **Learners Testing in Grades 6-12 Who Check in a Phone at Registration:**

You do not need to remain on campus during testing, but please be within a 10-minute driving distance when your child calls for a pickup. Since the safety of your child is essential, learners are *not* allowed to wait for you outside of the school for pickup. Your learner will be waiting for you *inside* the school building.

- **Learners Testing in Grades 6-12 Who Do Not Check in a Phone at Registration:**

Parents will need to remain on campus in the parent waiting area; there are no exceptions, so please plan accordingly. This is for the safety of our learners since we do not collect medical information. Learners may be testing for several hours, so please bring items with you to occupy your time. Parents may not leave for any reason after checking in their learner for testing, so please remember to bring all items you may need, such as a laptop, phone, etc. There are no food or drink items available for purchase.

What if I forget to bring a snack or water bottle for my child?

There are water fountains available, but there are no snacks available for purchase. A testing administration will not be interrupted to give your child a snack or water bottle that is brought late.

How long will my child be testing?

- Three hours is allowed for each test taken by the learner. If your child is taking two exams, please allow up to six hours for testing. However, this time frame does not include the time taken to disseminate testing

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materials and exams. Typically, learners take about 60-90 minutes per test if they have a deep understanding of the test content.

- When students finish, they are allowed to leave. Students are not required to stay until the last person finishes.
- There are no scheduled breaks, however, your child will be allowed to go to the restroom, get a drink, eat a snack (if brought), stretch, etc. (as needed). However, the clock does not stop for these activities. All time taken for water, snacks, restroom, stretching, etc. are counted as part of the three-hour time limit.

If my child is taking a CBE for grade level acceleration, in what order will the tests be given?

Typically, the math exams are given first followed by the science, reading language arts, & social studies. Because the student must earn an 80% or higher on each exam, each test is graded before the student moves on to the next CBE. For example, if a student completes a 5th grade mathematics CBE for the fall semester, it will then be graded to determine the grade the student has earned on the exam. If it is 80% or higher, the student will then take the spring semester of 5th grade mathematics. If the student is successful on the second exam, a schedule would be created to continue testing in the following days.

What happens if my child is taking a CBE for grade level acceleration and fails a test before completing all eight of the required grade level acceleration exams?

As soon as a learner does not meet the required passing score of 80% or higher on one of the exams, all testing for the learner is immediately stopped. Therefore, if your child does not meet the required passing score on the first exam given, he/she will not take the second test. If your child does meet the passing standard on the first exam, he/she will take the second exam. By passing the second exam, the learner will take the third exam. However, if the third exam is not passed, the fourth and final exam will not be taken.

When will I receive the testing results for the CBE(s) my child took?

Test results are dependent on the grade level & subject being administered. CBEs taken for high school credit arrive in four to six weeks.

What is the passing score?

On each CBE taken for acceleration without prior instruction, the passing score is 80% or higher.

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How do I know if my child made the required 80% score to accelerate?

The results will be returned to the district who will communicate with you once they are received. For students in grades K-6, student results will be available once they have completed the test & been graded.

How will the campus know what score my child made on the CBE(s)?

Campuses will be notified of CBE scores. If your child passed the CBE, the campus will accelerate your child & adjust their schedule accordingly. In addition, your child's transcript will reflect the CBE score and be averaged in as an "On Grade Level" course for GPA. Scores less than 80% will be recorded.

If my child passes a CBE, when will he/she accelerate?

Regardless of the date a CBE for acceleration is taken, placement in a new year-long course or grade level will take place prior to the first day of school. If the acceleration is for a semester course, acceleration will take place prior to the first day of the semester in which the course will be taken. Acceleration will not take place once a semester has started.

The *only* exception is the Fall CBE testing window, which is for new enrollees. These learners did not have the chance to take a CBE during the summer, so the Assessment Office provides them with the same opportunity for acceleration that our currently enrolled learners have.

If my child is in GT, how will acceleration impact his/her GT services?

This will be considered on a learner-by-learner basis. GT services are provided based on instructional need. It is possible that a learner who accelerates will no longer need the GT service in the accelerated instructional setting. Acceleration may meet the instructional needs of the learner.

If my child passes the CBE for acceleration, will this qualify him/her for GT services?

No.

If my child passes the 6th grade math CBE for acceleration, what math class will he or she take the next school year?

Please contact your campus counselor to determine course/class placement.

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If my child passes the 7th grade math CBE for acceleration, what math class will he or she take the next school year?

Please contact your campus counselor to determine course/class placement.

My high school student was homeschooled & it was not an accredited school. Can my student take a CBE to earn credit?

Yes. The student can take a CBE to earn credit for content which they have already been taught. However, the student may be required to take the corresponding STAAR EOC if he/she tests in any of the following subjects:

- Algebra 1
- Biology
- English 1
- English 2
- US History

What if my homeschooled student wishes to take a test now to earn credit & not wait for the District CBE date?

Parents may purchase a CBE exam directly from Texas Tech University and hire a test administrator to proctor the exams for the student. The district is *not involved* in this process, so the parent must:

- Follow the directions on the [Texas Tech University website](#).
 - The student/parent will need to speak with the school counselor.
 - Prepare for the exam by downloading the CBE review sheets provided by TTU.
 - Enroll in the exam & determine when he/she will take the exam.
 - Take the exam.
 - Return your results to your school counselor.
 - If the student has received prior instruction, he/she must make a 70% or higher to receive credit.

Please note: Regardless of the date a CBE is taken, placement in a new year-long course or grade level will take place prior to the first day of school. If the CBE is for a semester course, schedule changes for credit will take place prior to the first day of the semester in which the exam was taken.

Please contact Jennifer Coward at jcoward@crandall-isd.net with any questions not answered in this document about credit by exams.