

HORIZONS  
PLACEMENT  
CRITERIA

RATIONALE

The goal of setting placement and exit criteria for HORIZONS classes in grades 6-8 is to provide students with the most appropriate instructional environment based on their level of achievement and ability.

STUDENT AND  
PARENT  
CONTRACT

Students eligible for placement in the HORIZONS classes have the option to decline participation. Students and parents will sign a contract stating they understand the level of instruction and additional time commitment required by enrollment in these classes.

PLACEMENT  
CRITERIA GRADE  
6

Entrance to grade 6 HORIZONS classes is based on the criteria indicated for the content area listed below.

The principal has the discretion to review all records and make final HORIZONS course placement decisions.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES CRITERIA

Students must receive a combined score of an 8 or greater on the Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies Placement Matrix.

The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- First Administration 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reading STAAR score
- Year to date average in 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reading class
- Teacher Rating Score
- Parent/Student Rating Score

## MATH AND SCIENCE CRITERIA

Students must receive a combined score of an 8 or greater on the Math/Science Placement Matrix.

The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- First Administration 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics STAAR score
- End of 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks average in course
- Teacher Rating Score
- Parent/Student Rating Score

## PLACEMENT CRITERIA GRADES 7 - 8

Entrance to grades 7 or 8 HORIZONS classes is based on meeting the criteria indicated for the content area listed below.

The principal has the discretion to review all records and make final HORIZONS course placement decisions.

Students must receive a combined score of a 7 or greater on the Reading/Language Arts Placement Matrix.

## Grades 7 or 8 HORIZONS READING/LANGUAGE ARTS and SOCIAL STUDIES

The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Reading score
- Year to date average in 6th grade Reading class
- Motivation Survey
- Parent/Student Rating Score (for students not currently in Horizon's courses)

## GRADES 7 or 8 HORIZONS SCIENCE

Qualification for 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade Horizons science is determined by the Math Placement Matrix.

The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics STAAR score
- Year to date average in 6th grade Science class
- Motivation Survey
- Parent/Student Rating Score (for students not currently in Horizon's courses)

## Grade 7 and 8 HORIZONS MATHEMATICS

Students must receive a score of 8 or greater on the Acceleration Placement Matrix. The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- Stanine 6 or higher on IAAT test
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics STAAR score at Meets Level or higher
- End of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks average
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

## Grade 8 ALGEBRA I for HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of 7th grade HORIZONS (pre-Algebra) class.

Students must receive a score of 13 or greater on the Acceleration Placement Matrix. The Matrix is based on the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- Stanine 8.5 or higher on IAAT test
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics STAAR score at Masters Level
- End of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics course

- A score of 87 or Algebraic Readiness Assessment.
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey

#### Grade 8 SPANISH I for HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students must meet four of the following criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading STAAR score at Meets Level or higher
- A minimum cumulative grade of 85 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading
- A minimum cumulative grade of 85 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

#### MAINTENANCE CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN HORIZONS CLASSES GRADES 6-8

#### HORIZONS READING, ENGLISH, MATH, SOCIAL STUDIES, and/or SCIENCE:

Students in these HORIZONS classes must maintain an 80 average and meet two additional placement criteria to advance to a HORIZONS class in that content area the following year.

#### EXIT CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL FROM HORIZONS CLASSES

Students must demonstrate continued academic success to remain in the HORIZONS classes. Students whose report card grade is 79 or below are required to have a conference with the teacher and parent to discuss a plan for improvement.

Students must maintain their grades throughout the school year. If the student receives a grade of 79 or below on a second report card, the student may be removed from the HORIZONS class and reassigned to an on-level class.

The principal, teacher, and parents may agree to override the exit criteria and have the student remain in the HORIZONS under special circumstances.