CREDIT BY EXAM FOR ACCELERATION
(CBEA)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why should my learner 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 or 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 grade level or course. Credit by Exam is *not* designed for grade level recovery when a learner is retained in a previous grade.

2. **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. Knowing a score or how many questions a child missed does not help in guiding instruction. Pflugerville ISD assesses students throughout the year with a variety of assessments that will give parents information with regard to how a student is performing academically.

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

   The purpose of CBEs for acceleration is to accelerate. It is not to see how a learner is performing in a grade level or course in which he/she has not yet received instruction. Therefore, if your child takes a CBE for acceleration and achieves the passing score, your child will be accelerated and the score cannot be removed from the transcript. If you do not wish 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.*

4. **If my child is identified as GT, is high achieving, or makes all high grades, can I expect that he/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, 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 in which he/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 is not thoroughly prepared. Additionally the district is unable to provide instruction for this type of acceleration.*

5. **How does my child prepare for a CBE?**
   Exam content is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). To view Credit by Exam review sheets or to find out more information about the CBE your child will take, please visit the University of Texas (UT) Credit by Exam website. Obtaining study materials for a CBE is the sole responsibility of the parent and the learner.

6. **What is the passing standard for a CBE?**
   Students in grades K-8 must score 80% or above in each of the four (4) exams (Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies). Participants must take the complete battery of exams.

7. **How many times can my child take a CBE?**
   There is no limit on the amount of credits a student may earn. However, students may not attempt to earn credit for a specific course or grade level more than two (2) times. Once an Exam for Acceleration has been passed, it may not be taken again.

8. **How do I find out the registration deadline and testing dates the district has for CBE testing?**
   Students will have four opportunities during the school year to use Credit by Exam to accelerate to another grade level. Testing dates and registration deadlines can be found on the district website at https://www.pfisd.net/Page/315.

9. **If my child passes a CBE, when can I expect him/her to be accelerated to the next course/grade level?**

   Placement in a new course/grade level will only occur at the start of a school year (or semester for semester courses) regardless of when a CBE for acceleration is taken.

10. **Are CBE exam grades recorded on the transcript?**

    If a student passes the CBE exam and is awarded credit, the score will be reported on the transcript. Scores will not be recorded on the transcript if a student does not pass the CBE exam and is not awarded credit.

11. **How will passing a CBE impact my child's Grade Point Average (GPA)?**

    Credit by examination is not included in the calculation of class rank.

12. **Is there a CBE for EOC (end of course) subjects?**

    If a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination on which the student scored 80 percent or higher, the examination score will be entered on the student's transcript and the student is not required to take an end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(c) for the course.

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

    While there is no charge to parents when students take an Exam for Acceleration, there is a cost to the district for both the test and the proctor who monitors the exam as it is given. Parents who request an exam for acceleration acknowledge that they will pay canceled exam fees if they elect to not take an exam ordered. Fees are determined based on the amount the district pays for the test.

14. What should my child bring on the day of the test?

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. Your child must bring a student photo ID, such as a school ID, drivers' license, bus pass, passport, etc. for identification purposes. Passports must be current to allow for student facial identification. A passport of your child when they were a baby is not acceptable, since it is required that your child's photo ID allow for facial recognition. No one will be allowed to test without a student photo ID, per the University of Texas requirements.

15. May my child bring a water bottle or snack?

Your child may bring a water bottle and/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. The University of Texas does not allow breaks.

16. When will my child test?

Exam times are determined by the campus. If you are not able to test during the time provided by the campus, fees may be incurred for rescheduling or cancellation of exams.

For additional information regarding Credit by Exam for Acceleration, please contact your child's campus counselor.