

## FAQ: Credit by Exam (CBE) without Prior Instruction for Elementary & Intermediate Courses 2024 - 2025

*Disclaimer: This document contains frequently asked questions, not every potential scenario is covered. For additional guidance, contact your campus CBE coordinator or counselor.*

### What is Credit by Exam?

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 students who have an academic and emotional need to advance to the next grade level. Credit by Exam is not designed for grade level advancement after a student has been retained in a previous grade level. Typically, less than 5% of students who attempt to skip an entire grade level are successful.

### What are the eligibility requirements for a student to register for Credit by Exam?

Students must meet all eligibility requirements to register for CBE testing:

1. Student is enrolled in a Klein ISD school.
2. Kindergarten and First grade students must meet the state law age requirement:
  - 5 years old by September 1 to accelerate to First Grade.
  - 6 years old by September 1 to accelerate to Second Grade.

### What is the registration process?

The campus CBE coordinator or counselor must sign the registration form to verify the student's grade level and eligibility for either a Klein ISD proctored exam or one proctored by Lone Star College outside of the scheduled test administrations.

### What are the registration and testing dates for Credit by Exam for this school year?

#### Credit by Exam Dates

Klein ISD will offer four CBE test administrations. Campuses determine the specific testing date within the testing window. Please contact your school counselor. Applications must be submitted to your counselor by the end of the school day on the date of the application deadline.

### Where is the testing site location, address and required arrival time for testing?

Students will be notified of the testing time, location, address and arrival time in advance of the test administration by the school counselor.

### What are the Credit by Exam score requirements to advance a grade level?

- Kindergarten students must score a minimum of 80 percent on both the Language Arts and Mathematics exam to advance to first grade.
- For Grades 1- 8, students must score a minimum of 80 percent or higher on all subject area exams which include Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.

## What does Round I and Round II mean?

For students attempting to accelerate an entire grade level, testing will be conducted in two rounds. Students taking a single “course” assessment, rather than accelerating a grade level, will test in Round I.

- **Round I** consists of the Language Arts test. If a student scores 80% or above on the Language Arts test, they will then advance to Round II testing. If a student does not score a minimum of 80%, they will not be tested in Round II.
- **Round II** will assess the remaining grade level subjects (Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics) in sequence. Once a student fails to achieve a score of 80% or above on any given assessment, testing will cease.

For students attempting to advance a single grade level, each grade level assessment must be passed before moving to the next subject assessment. Furthermore, those students that attempt to advance multiple grade levels, each grade level sequence of assessments must be passed before advancing to the next grade level sequence of assessments.

## What is the process for “skipping” Kindergarten and accelerating into first grade?

There will be only one window for Kindergarten to first grade acceleration per calendar year. Students will begin the school year in Kindergarten. Parents will meet with the student’s Kindergarten teacher and school counselor about acceleration and submit a completed CBE application by the deadline. This process ensures that students, who enroll at the beginning of the school year, will have an opportunity to accelerate. Students will take both the Mathematics and Language Arts exam during the testing window. Upon receipt of passing scores (minimum of 80 percent on both tests), students will move to first grade (anticipated at the end of the first quarter/marketing period).

## When will my student test if only a subject test is needed?

Students attempting to accelerate in only Mathematics or Science at the intermediate level will take the CBE in Round I.

Students attempting to accelerate a high school credit course (i.e. Algebra I) should consult the [FAQ for High School Credit Courses](#) for more information.

## Can my student accelerate mid-year via the Credit by Exam program?

No, 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 the CBE is taken.

## How are the tests administered?

CBE exams are online and will be administered on campus.

## Oral Admin?

Only students attempting to advance from KG and 1st grade will have the test administered orally, and will circle their answers in the test booklet. Students attempting advancement in grades 2 or higher will read the test themselves.

### What are the exceptions for an excused absence from testing?

It is imperative that you notify your campus counselor as soon as possible if you believe you have an excused absence from testing. If a student does not have an excused absence from testing, the student will not be allowed to take CBE without prior instruction for the remainder of the school year.

### If my student is unable to test on the dates listed, can my student take the test on a different day?

Klein ISD will strictly adhere to the scheduled testing dates. If students are unable to test on these dates, parents may purchase the tests directly from the University of Texas (UT) and the student will take the CBE at a Klein ISD approved testing site. The Klein ISD approved testing sites are listed below.

- Lone Star College University Park. Contact information 281-401-5314 for times and fees.
- Lone Star College Tomball. Contact information 832-559-4245 for times and fees.

Students should pick up a University of Texas individual registration form from their school counselor, fill out the form completely and submit to the proctor located at Lone Star College for approval. Age restrictions may apply. Once approved by Lone Star, the student will return the form to the school counselor for approval (approval means the counselor signature is in the appropriate location on the UT registration form), who will then verify its completion and return it to the student for ordering. The student may then fax the registration form to the University of Texas.

### Can my student use a testing center or proctor from another organization?

The following are **unacceptable** testing sites: municipal libraries, tutoring centers, learning centers, residential homes, churches.

The following are **unacceptable** proctors: tutors, uncertified teachers and other school personnel, instructors, professors, family members, friends or others with a personal connection to the student.

For additional guidance, contact your campus CBE coordinator or counselor.

### How can my student study or prepare for the Credit by Exam?

Review materials may be found at [The University of Texas at Austin - UT High School - Credit by Exam - Study Guide webpage](#). This information includes a list of required supplies which must be provided by the student during testing. *Students taking an 8th grade math CBE must bring a graphing calculator on the day of the test and must understand how to use the calculator.* Obtaining student textbooks referenced in the study materials is the sole responsibility of the parent.

### What test does my student register for in order to enroll in Algebra I in the fall?

Students must show mastery of third through eighth grade mathematics, either through completion of each grade level course or a CBE score of 80% or higher per grade level, to enroll in Algebra 1 for the upcoming school year.

### What are the course pathways for students wishing to enroll in Algebra I at the intermediate level?

- Option 1: 6th grade Accelerated Math → 7th grade Algebra I
- Option 2: 6th grade Advanced Math → 7th grade Advanced Math → 8th grade Algebra I

### **When will we receive the Credit by Exam results?**

- If the student is registered for multiple exams, results from Round I will be communicated to parents by the campus counselor approximately 2-4 weeks after testing. If the student is only registered for one test, results will be emailed 2-4 weeks after testing.
- Results from Round II testing in Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics will be provided at the completion of the testing day.
- Hard copies via US Mail will only be provided on request.

### **What will happen if the results are not received before the first day of school?**

The Credit by Exam schedule is designed with the intention that parents and campuses will receive the CBE results before the start of the school year. However, if CBE Round II results are not received by the first day of school, the student will begin the school year at the current enrolled grade level. If the student meets the criteria to advance to the next grade level, the student will be moved to the new grade level.

### **If my student does not score the minimum 80%, will the score be recorded on the student transcript?**

Scores below 80% will not be recorded on the student's permanent transcript.

### **If my student does not score the minimum 80%, can they retake the exam?**

Retesting is not available.

### **After my student has taken the Credit by Exam, can I review the exam questions for further study?**

The Klein ISD will not allow the release of any secure CBE assessments.

### **When are students able to take a "Course" assessment in lieu of a "Grade Level" assessment?**

Students currently enrolled in intermediate school may seek course advancement during the school year and the summer. Visit your campus counselor for more information and available test dates. Elementary students seeking course advancement will have to wait until enrolled at the intermediate level to pursue course advancement (in lieu of grade advancement).

### **Are there provisions for students who are homeless or in substitute care?**

Yes, students classified homeless or in substitute care who transfer to the district after the start of the school year shall be provided an opportunity to be administered credit by exam at any point during the school year. Credit shall be awarded proportionately to a student who successfully completed only one semester of a two-semester course.