

Credit By Exam (CBE) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Credit by Exam (CBE)?

Credit by Exam lets a student earn course credit by passing a test. The test shows the student already knows the course material.

2. Who can take a Credit by Exam?

Any student enrolled in EMS ISD who meets eligibility rules can take a CBE. Rules follow EMS ISD policy and state guidelines. Approval is required by campus counselor and principal.

3. Why would a student take a CBE?

Students may take a CBE to:

- Earn credit without taking the full course
- Recover credit for a failed course
- Accelerate to a higher-level course

4. What subjects are offered for CBE?

CBEs are offered for subjects approved by EMS ISD. Availability depends on grade level and course. Contact school counselors for more information.

5. How many times can a student take a CBE?

The number of attempts is set by EMS ISD policy. Some exams may be limited to one or two attempts.

6. When are CBE tests given?

CBE testing dates are scheduled by EMS ISD. Tests are given four times a year: Fall, Spring, and twice during the Summer. See Testing Date & Application Deadline for current dates.

7. When is an acceleration test given for grades 1–8?

For students in grades 1–8, acceleration tests are given during scheduled testing windows set by EMS ISD. Testing usually takes place in the summer or at other approved times during the school year. Parents should contact the campus counseling office for exact dates and deadlines.

8. What score is needed to earn credit?

Students must score 80% or higher on each test.

9. What score is required to skip a grade and earn credit?

When accelerating a grade (skipping a grade), students must score 80% or higher in all four (4) required subjects, when applicable, to earn credit.

10. Can a student earn credit if they never took the course?

Yes. If the student meets eligibility rules and earns the required score, credit may be awarded.

11. Can a student use CBE for credit recovery?

Yes. A student who previously failed a course may use CBE for credit recovery if allowed by EMS ISD policy.

12. What happens if my student does not pass the test for acceleration or credit recovery?

If a student does not pass the exam, credit is not awarded. Students may retake the exam according to EMS ISD policy, or they may need to enroll in the full course to earn credit.

13. Is there a cost to take a CBE?

A deposit is required for course acceleration or skipping a grade. Credit recovery exams require a fee for the exam, all in accordance with EMS ISD policy.

14. How do parents sign up a student for a CBE?

Parents or guardians must complete the application on the EMS ISD website. The completed application must be submitted to the school counselor along with any required deposit or testing fees by the stated deadline.

15. Who do parents contact if they have questions about these exams?

Parents or guardians should contact the campus counselor with questions about Credit by Exam. If additional help is needed, they may contact the EMS ISD guidance office.

16. Does a CBE score affect GPA?

CBE credit is awarded as pass or fail and does not impact GPA, unless otherwise stated by EMS ISD policy.

17. Will the credit appear on the transcript?

Yes. Earned credit will be recorded on the student's transcript according to district rules.

18. Can special education or 504 students take a CBE?

Yes. Approved accommodations listed in the student's plan may be provided, following EMS ISD guidelines.

19. Who can I contact for more information?

Contact your campus counselor or the EMS ISD guidance office for the most current CBE information.