BEAUMONT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CREDIT BY (CBE) EXAM Handbook

Owner: Assessment Administration and Operations

#ElevateBeaumont | www.bmtisd.com | @BeaumontISD

2026-2027 GUIDANCE AND EXPECTATIONS

Updated 09.16.2026

Section 1.0 Credit by Examination (CBE) without Prior Instruction

1.1.0 Overview

1.1.1 Purpose of Credit by Exam

Credit by Examination (CBE) is a method by which an eligible student may demonstrate mastery of grade-level or course content through an approved examination. Texas law requires school districts to provide students with opportunities to participate in CBE in accordance with applicable state requirements and local district policy. CBE assessments must be approved in accordance with district procedures and applicable state requirements.

1.1.2 2026–2027 CBE BISD Testing Windows

Parent Requests* Completed by parents *Due by 4 pm*	Campus Submissions* Completed by CTCs Due by 4 pm	Test Window	Grade Level Guidelines+
10/12-10/16	10/19-10/23	11/9-11/20	9–12: Advance in a course
1/18-1/22	1/25-1/29	2/8-2/19	9–12: Advance in a course
5/10-5/14	5/17-5/21	6/7-6/18	K–8: Skip a grade 6–12: Advance in a course

***Note:** The Parent Request form will close at the end of the parent request window..

+Note: High school students can take CBEs during all windows.

1.1.3 BISD Application Process

During each window, parents will submit requests for their student. All approved parent requests and additional requested exams must be applied for via a CBE submission form. Each form will remain active for the specified dates only. In addition to the parent request form and campus submission form, campuses will be required to validate submissions prior to district ordering. The application process in its entirety is outlined in the table below. All end dates are hard deadlines and will not be extended.

Subsequent Exam Eligibility and Scheduling: Students who may need an additional exam must complete their first exam within the first two days of the testing window. If a student scores 80% or higher on the first exam, the testing window will be extended for that student only so the student may complete any eligible subsequent exam(s). Do not schedule a subsequent exam until the Assessment team confirms that the exam has been ordered and provides approval to proceed.

Parent Requests Completed by parents *Due by 4 pm*	Campus Submissions Completed by CTCs *Due by 4 pm*	Submissions Validation Completed by CTCs *Due by Noon*	Test Window
10/12-10/16	10/12-10/23	11/2-11/4	11/9-11/13
1/18-1/22	1/18-1/29	2/1-2/3	2/8-2/12
5/10-5/14	5/10-5/21	5/24-5/27	6/7-6/11

1.1.4 Cost

There is no cost to students enrolled in Beaumont ISD when testing within the designated testing windows.

Remediation/credit recovery courses are not paid for by the Assessment Department.

1.1.5 Exam Limits

A student cannot attempt to receive credit in a particular subject more than two times.

Students may attempt acceleration two times, one attempt per testing window for the same grade/subject.

Students may only change grade levels prior to the beginning of a school year.

The seat time for the University of Texas High School (UTHS) is 3 hours.

1.1.6 Assessment Results

UTHS assessment results are available in the UTHS Canvas platform within 48–72 hours of exam completion. Campuses are responsible for accessing and downloading student reports directly from the UTHS Canvas platform.

The campus will communicate the student's assessment results directly to the parent/guardian. **The Strategic Performance and Compliance Department will not provide or release student assessment results.**

If campus level access is needed for UTHS, send an email to: uthspartnercbe@austin.utexas.edu. Please note that campus level access for results view is different from proctor access for administration. The Assessment department cannot grant access for the UTHS platform.

Elementary School CBE Guidance

1.2.0 Elementary CBE Administration Eligibility

Grade Band / Program	CBE #1	CBE #2	CBE #3
Kindergarten Acceleration	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible
Grades 1–5 Acceleration	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible

1.2.1 Kindergarten Acceleration

To qualify for Kindergarten Acceleration, the student must meet these qualifications:

- The student must be enrolled in BISD.
- The counselor, with input from the classroom teacher, will complete a social-emotional readiness form for the desired upcoming grade level.
- The student must score at or above the 90th percentile on the most recent administration of NWEA MAP in reading and math when available.
- Upon review of NWEA MAP results and social-emotional expectations, the counselor must complete the required request form for CBE Testing if the student meets criteria.

A student in Kindergarten may be accelerated one grade level if the student scores 80% or higher on each of the four core content exams: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies CBE assessments for the grade level the student wishes to accelerate through.

The student will pre-register at their enrolled campus. Once the student approval process is finalized and complete, assessments are administered one at a time, at the BISD Administration or Annex building, with the next assessment ordered only after the student's results are received and confirm a passing score of 80% or higher.

Assessment Progression and Grade-Level Placement

Assessments will be administered in the following sequence:

1. **Social Studies:** The student must earn a score of **80% or higher** to proceed to the Science assessment.
2. **Science:** If the student earns a score of **80% or higher**, the Math assessment will be ordered and administered.
3. **Math:** The student must earn a score of **80% or higher** to proceed to the Language Arts assessment.
4. **Language Arts:** The student must earn a score of **80% or higher** on the Language Arts assessment to be eligible for placement in the **next grade level**.

A score of 80% or higher is required on all four assessments—Social Studies, Science, Math, and Language Arts—for the student to be eligible for placement in the next grade level.

If the student is not successful on any individual assessment, the grade acceleration process ends. The student is not eligible to accelerate. To accelerate to the next grade level, the student is required to successfully pass all four assessments.

Note: The test window will be extended for qualifying students so that students do not have to wait until the next window to take the three remaining assessments.

1.2.2 Grades 1-5 Acceleration

To qualify for Grades 1-5 Acceleration, the student must meet the following qualifications:

- The student must be enrolled in BISD.
- The counselor, with input from the classroom teacher, will complete a social-emotional readiness form for the desired upcoming grade level.
- The student must score at or above the 90th percentile on the most recent administration of NWEA MAP in reading, math, **and** science.
- The student must score Master's on the most recent STAAR test(s) or
    - If the student has 3 years of STAAR testing data, the student maintained Meets or Mastered 3 consecutive years prior to the request for CBE testing.
- Upon review of NWEA MAP and STAAR results, the counselor must complete the required request form for CBE Testing, if the student meets criteria.

A student in grades 1–5 may be accelerated one grade level if the student scores 80% or higher on each of the four core content exams: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and

Social Studies CBE assessments for the grade level the student wishes to accelerate through.

The student will pre-register at their enrolled campus. Once the student approval process is finalized and complete, assessments are administered one at a time, at the BISD Administration or Annex building, with the next assessment ordered only after the student's results are received and confirm a passing score of 80% or higher.

Assessment Progression and Grade-Level Placement

Assessments will be administered in the following sequence:

5. **Social Studies:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher to proceed to the Science assessment.
6. **Science:** If the student earns a score of 80% or higher, the Math assessment will be ordered and administered.
7. **Math:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher to proceed to the Language Arts assessment.
8. **Language Arts:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher on the Language Arts assessment to be eligible for placement in the next grade level.

A score of 80% or higher is required on all four assessments—Social Studies, Science, Math, and Language Arts—for the student to be eligible for placement in the next grade level.

If the student is not successful on any individual assessment, the grade acceleration process ends. The student is not eligible to accelerate. To accelerate to the next grade level, the student is required to successfully pass all four assessments.

Note: The test window will be extended for qualifying students so that students do not have to wait until the next window to take the three remaining assessments.

Middle School CBE Guidance

1.3.0 Middle School CBE Administration Eligibility

Grade Band / Course Type	CBE #1	CBE #2	CBE #3
Grades 6–8 Grade-Level Acceleration/Advancement (UTHS)	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible
Grades 6–8 High School Credit Courses (UTHS)	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible

1.3.1 Grades 6–8 Grade-Level Acceleration/Advancement

Students can only skip grade levels up to 8th grade. Skipping 9-12 grades is not allowed.

To qualify for Grades 6-8 Acceleration, the student must meet these qualifications:

- The student must be enrolled in BISD.
- The counselor, with input from the classroom teacher, will complete a social-emotional readiness form for the desired upcoming grade level.
- The student must score at or above the 90th percentile on the most recent administration of NWEA MAP in reading, math, and science.
- The student must score Master's on the most recent STAAR test(s) or
    - If the student has 3 years of STAAR testing data, the student maintained Meets or Mastered 3 consecutive years prior to the request for CBE testing.
- Upon review of NWEA MAP and STAAR results, the counselor must complete the required request form for CBE Testing, if the student meets criteria.

A student in grades 6-8 may be accelerated one grade level if the student scores 80% or higher on each of the four core content exams: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and

Social Studies CBE assessments for the grade level the student wishes to accelerate through.

The student will pre-register at their enrolled campus. Once the student approval process is finalized, assessments are administered one at a time, at the BISD Administration or Annex building, with the next assessment ordered only after the student's results are received and confirm a passing score of 80% or higher.

Assessment Progression and Grade-Level Placement

Assessments will be administered in the following sequence:

9. **Social Studies:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher to proceed to the Science assessment.
10. **Science:** If the student earns a score of 80% or higher, the Math assessment will be ordered and administered.
11. **Math:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher to proceed to the Language Arts assessment.
12. **Language Arts:** The student must earn a score of 80% or higher on the Language Arts assessment to be eligible for placement in the next grade level.

A score of 80% or higher is required on all four assessments—Social Studies, Science, Math, and Language Arts—for the student to be eligible for placement in the next grade level.

If the student is not successful on any individual assessment, the grade acceleration process ends. The student is not eligible to accelerate. To accelerate to the next grade level, the student is required to successfully pass all four assessments.

Note: The test window will be extended for qualifying students so that students do not have to wait until the next window to take the three remaining assessments.

1.3.2 Qualifications for Middle School Math and Accelerated Math CBE

Below you will find the guidelines for math acceleration criteria:

Current Course	Next Year Course	Placement Guidance
6 accelerated	7 accelerated	No advancement requirements
7 accelerated	Algebra I	STAAR expectations
6 Math, on grade level	8th grade	STAAR expectations, Math CBE
6 Math, on grade level or accelerated	Algebra I, in 7th grade	STAAR expectations
7 Math, on grade level	Algebra I	STAAR expectations

1.3.3 Qualifications for High School Credit in Middle School

Subject	Courses Offered
Reading / Language Arts	English I
Mathematics	Algebra I
Science	Biology
World Languages/Languages Other Than English	World Language specific

Middle school students may apply to earn high school course credit through Credit by Examination (CBE) during the designated application windows listed in the Courses Offered table above. The application windows are necessary because any high school credit earned through CBE will be recorded on the student's high school transcript and incorporated into the student's four-year high school graduation plan.

A middle school student may be considered for high school course acceleration through CBE when the student demonstrates readiness for the requested high school course and meets all applicable eligibility requirements. A student must meet the following requirements to be considered for high school course acceleration through CBE:

- The student must be currently enrolled in BISD.
- The student must demonstrate Meets or Masters performance on the three most recent STAAR assessments.
- The student must meet social-emotional criteria and expectations for the desired upcoming grade level.
- Following a review of the student's STAAR and/or NWEA MAP results and social-emotional verification, the school counselor must complete the required request form for CBE Testing if the student meets criteria.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria above must then take the approved CBE for the specific high school course requested and earn a score of 80% or higher.

If a student fails to earn credit by CBE for a high school course before the beginning of the school year when the student would normally be expected to enroll or be scheduled in that

course according to the district's course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to earn credit.

A student may not attempt to earn credit by exam for the same high school subject more than two times.

Awarding and Recording Credit

When a student earns high school course credit through CBE:

- The course credit must be recorded on the student's academic record/transcript, including the examination score, in accordance with district procedures.
- The student is not required to take the applicable state end-of-course (EOC) assessment for a course for which credit was awarded through CBE, as applicable under state requirements.

1.3.4 Middle School World Language Guidance

Credit for World Language courses in grade 8, whether through CBE or course completion, must comply with the program prerequisites, ensuring that course credit is awarded sequentially starting with level I. World Language proficiency examinations are available for students who are heritage speakers of a language other than English, have developed proficiency via dual language immersion programs, or reached proficiency through travel or study abroad. The school counselor will review student records and documentation of home language or study abroad and submit the required request form for CBE Testing.

Grade Level	Assessment Levels Offered
Entering Grade 8	CBE Assessment

Students may begin to apply for high school credit CBE courses during middle school as credit earned is applied to their high school four-year plan.

High School CBE Guidance

1.4.0 High School CBE Administration Eligibility

Grade Band / Course Type	CBE #1	CBE #2	CBE #3
Grades 9–12 High School Credit Courses **(UTHS)**	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Grades 9–12 World Language	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible

1.4.1 Grades 9–12 High School Credit by Exam

Grades 9–12 CBE tests are provided through the University of Texas High School. The student must be enrolled in BISD and have Counselor approval.

Below is a sample list of courses that students will have the opportunity to earn credit via CBE:

Subject	Courses Offered
English	English I, English II, English III, English IV
Mathematics	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems, Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Physics
Social Studies	Economics, Government, US History, World Geography, World History

Subject	Courses Offered
World Languages/Languages Other Than English	French, Spanish Contact campus CTC for any additional languages

1.4.2 Qualifications for High School Credit

Students in Grades 9-12 may be considered for high school course acceleration through Credit by Examination (CBE) if the student meets the following requirements:

- The student must be currently enrolled in BISD.
- The student must demonstrate Meets or Masters performance on the three most recent STAAR/EOC assessments for the subject area they are trying to accelerate.
- The student must meet social-emotional criteria and expectations for the desired upcoming grade level.
- Following a review of the student's STAAR results, the school counselor must complete the required request form for CBE Testing if the student meets criteria.
- Credit for World Language courses in high school, whether through CBE or course completion, must comply with the program prerequisites, ensuring that course credit is awarded sequentially starting with level I. World Language proficiency examinations are available for students who are heritage speakers of a language other than English, have developed proficiency via dual language immersion programs, or reached proficiency through travel or study abroad. The school counselor will review student records and documentation of home language or study abroad and submit the required request form for CBE Testing.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria above must then take the approved CBE for the specific high school course requested and earn a score of 80% or higher.

Awarding and Recording Credit

When a student earns high school course credit through CBE:

- The course credit must be recorded on the student's academic record/transcript, including the examination score, in accordance with district procedures.

- The student is not required to take the applicable state end-of-course (EOC) assessment for a course for which credit was awarded through CBE, as applicable under state requirements.

If a student fails to earn credit by CBE for a high school course before the beginning of the school year when the student would normally be expected to enroll or be scheduled in that course according to the district's course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to earn credit.

A student may not attempt to earn credit by exam for the same high school subject more than two times.

1.4.3 High School World Language Guidance

World Language proficiency examinations are available for students who are heritage speakers of a language other than English, have developed proficiency via dual language immersion programs, or reached proficiency through travel or study abroad.

Students in grades 9–12 may complete any level of World Language CBE assessments during the testing windows, in compliance with the prerequisites for the course and the CBE guidance. The school counselor will review student transcripts and documentation of home language or study abroad and submit the required request form for CBE Testing.

Credit for World Language courses in grades 9–12, whether through CBE or course completion, must comply with the program prerequisites, ensuring that course credit is awarded sequentially starting with level I.

Students who qualify will be administered the designated course level assessment and must score at least 80% to receive credit for the course.

Section 2.0 Credit by Examination (CBE) with Prior Instruction

2.1.0 Purpose of CBE with Prior Instruction

Credit by Examination (CBE) with prior instruction provides an opportunity for an eligible student in Grades 6–12 to demonstrate sufficient mastery of course content and earn credit for a course in which the student has previously received instruction but did not earn credit.

CBE with prior instruction is considered a remediation pathway and is subject to applicable state requirements and Beaumont ISD (BISD) policy. The purpose of the examination is to determine whether the student has demonstrated sufficient mastery to receive course credit without repeating the full course.

2.2.0 Student Eligibility

Students in Grades 6–12 may be eligible to earn credit through CBE with prior instruction when the student has previously received instruction in the course and meets BISD eligibility requirements.

The student must:

- Be currently enrolled in Beaumont ISD at the time of testing.
- Have received prior instruction in the course for which credit is being requested, as determined by BISD.
- Maintain an attendance rate of 90% or higher, as determined by BISD attendance records, at the time of the CBE request.
- Have not previously earned credit for the course.
- Meet applicable course, academic, and district eligibility requirements.
- Receive counselor approval before the CBE request is submitted.
- Complete the required CBE application and testing process within the designated BISD testing window.
- Take an examination approved by the BISD Board of Trustees for the applicable course.

CBE with prior instruction is intended to address previously attempted coursework for which credit was not earned. A student may not use CBE with prior instruction to bypass a course that the student has not previously taken. Students seeking credit for a course in which they have had no prior instruction must follow the requirements in the CBE Without Prior Instruction section of this handbook.

2.2.1 Unaccredited Homeschooling/Programs

Students enrolling in Beaumont ISD from an unaccredited program, private school, or unaccredited homeschool program may be required to complete credit-by-exam (CBE) assessments to establish the appropriate grade-level classification or to award high school course credit.

For students enrolling during the academic year, any enrollment requiring a grade-level classification determination through CBE must be supported by a Temporary Grade Placement Form until the required assessment process is completed and the student's classification is finalized.

Students who were homeschooled or attended a non-accredited school and are requesting high school course credit to be applied to their BISD transcript must provide a copy of the student's transcript and supporting curriculum documentation. Students will be temporarily placed in 9th grade until verification of transcripts is confirmed. In the case that documentation does not adequately verify course completion, the student must complete the applicable CBE assessments through UT High School (UTHS). There is no cost to the student for required CBE assessments once the student is enrolled in Beaumont ISD.

CBE assessments may be administered remotely during the summer or on-site at the student's enrolled campus by the Campus Testing Coordinator, if available. Assessment results will be used to determine the appropriate course credit and/or grade-level placement in accordance with BISD requirements.

2.3.0 Assessment Requirements and Passing Standards

To earn credit through CBE with prior instruction, the student must demonstrate sufficient mastery by achieving a score of 70% or higher on an approved criterion-referenced CBE for the applicable course.

The examination must:

- Be approved by the BISD Board of Trustees for the applicable course.
- Assess the applicable course content and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Be administered under approved and secure testing conditions.
- Be completed within the designated BISD testing window.

The 70% passing standard applies specifically to CBE with prior instruction. The passing standards for CBE without prior instruction are different and are addressed separately in this handbook.

2.4.0 Application and Approval Process

Students must complete the CBE application process before an examination is ordered or administered.

The process is as follows:

- **Student/Parent Request:** The student and parent/guardian initiate the request for CBE through the campus.
- **Counselor Review:** The counselor reviews the student's academic record, course history, prerequisites, and graduation plan, as applicable.
- **Attendance Verification:** The counselor verifies that the student meets the minimum attendance for class credit or final grade requirements in accordance with TEC 25.092a, in which the student is expected to attend a minimum of 90% of the instructional days.
- **Eligibility Verification:** The campus confirms that the student meets the requirements for CBE without prior instruction.
- **CBE Request Submission:** The required CBE request is submitted within the designated testing window.
- **Assessment Ordering:** Once the request has been reviewed and approved, the appropriate examination is ordered through the district's established process.
- **Examination Administration:** The CBE is administered under approved and secure testing conditions.
- **Results:** The examination results are reviewed to determine whether the student met the required standard for credit.
- **Credit Awarding:** When the student meets the applicable passing standard, the course credit is awarded and recorded in accordance with district procedures.

2.5.0 Testing Windows and Scheduling

CBE assessments with prior instruction are administered during designated BISD testing windows and according to district procedures. Students must complete the approved assessment within the assigned testing window. The campus is responsible for ensuring that the student is scheduled for the appropriate examination and that all required testing procedures are followed. Results are provided to the campus for verification, communication with the student and parent/guardian, and appropriate academic recordkeeping.

2.6.0 Cost

There is no cost to students enrolled in Beaumont ISD when CBE testing is completed through BISD during the designated testing windows. Students and families should not independently purchase a CBE unless specifically directed by BISD.

2.7.0 Number of Attempts

A student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for the same high school course more than two times. Each attempt must be completed through the district's approved CBE process. The availability of a subsequent attempt is subject to applicable testing windows and district procedures.

2.8.0 Failure to Earn Credit

If a student does not meet the required passing standard, credit will not be awarded. If the student has not earned credit through CBE before the school year in which the course would normally be taken, the student must enroll in and complete the course to earn credit.

2.9.0 CBE and Prior Instruction

The distinction between CBE without prior instruction and CBE with prior instruction:

CBE Type	Student's Course History	Purpose	Passing Standard
Without Prior Instruction	Student has not previously received formal instruction in the course	Earn credit by demonstrating mastery without completing the course	80% or higher on an approved criterion-referenced CBE
With Prior Instruction / Remediation	Student has previously received instruction in the course but did not earn credit	Recover or earn credit through an approved remediation process	Subject to applicable state and BISD requirements, including 90%+ attendance requirement

Students should not be classified as seeking CBE without prior instruction when the student has already received formal instruction in the course. The campus counselor should determine the appropriate CBE pathway before the assessment is requested.

2.10.0 Student and Parent/Guardian Communication

Before testing, the campus should ensure that the student and parent/guardian understand:

- The course for which the student is requesting credit.
- The applicable CBE eligibility requirements.
- The required examination and passing standard.
- The applicable testing window and deadlines.
- The number of available examination attempts.
- The consequences of not earning credit through CBE.
- How earned credit will be recorded on the student's academic record and incorporated into the student's graduation plan, as applicable.

The campus is responsible for communicating the student's results to the parent/guardian and providing appropriate guidance regarding the student's next academic steps.

Resource

- TEA CBE Frequently Asked Questions

Links

Kindergarten Social Emotional Survey

Grades 1-4 Social Emotional Survey

Grades 5-8 Social Emotional Survey

Nonaccredited Parent Letter

Grades 1-8 Temporary Grade Placement Form

High School Temporary Grade Placement and Credit Acknowledgment