

Credit-By-Exam Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible for Credit-by-Exam testing?

- a. On the six State-mandated dates:
Enrolled students in Grades K-12, whether or not they have had prior instruction. Students may not be “screened” before taking the tests but must meet all eligibility requirements.
- b. On the additional NISD dates (November and February):
Only enrolled students in Grades 6-12. Middle school students may not attempt to test out of an entire grade level on these dates.

Note: Students who have completed a grade/course in a non-accredited school or through home school may use an alternative validation of credit process rather than going through the NISD Credit-by-Exam process. Check with the Executive Directors of Secondary / Elementary Education or your school counselor for more detailed information.

2. May students who have failed a grade level or course use Credit-by-Exam testing to receive credit for that grade level or course?

Yes. However, if the student has failed a grade level or course due to absences, a campus committee made up of a campus administrator, the teacher(s) of the course(s) or grade level, and a counselor must approve the CBE testing. This option is only available at the secondary level.

3. What courses are eligible for Credit-by-Exam testing?

It is possible to test out of Grades 1-8 (except during the November and February dates) and subject areas listed in Chapter 74 of SB1. Please note: Most courses that require performance assessments are NOT eligible for CBE. Please check the Eligible Course list.

Note: Students may not test out of a course in which they are currently enrolled or take a CBE test to try and attain a higher grade on a course or CBE they have previously passed.

Important: Students may not use CBE to receive honors-level credit. For example, students may test out of Algebra 1, but not Algebra 1 Honors.

4. May students test out of kindergarten?

Yes. Students who are eligible to enter kindergarten (age 5 on September 1) may be “accelerated” and placed in the first grade. (The same application form for CBE should be completed for these students.) **NOTE:** Students who have completed kindergarten in a public school in another state or in a DOD (Department of Defense) school are eligible to attend Grade 1 without any Credit-by-Exam testing.

- 5. Are school districts required to offer Credit-by-Exam testing?**
Yes. All public school districts are required by the State to offer Credit-by-Exam testing three days during the period January 1 through June 30 and three days during the period July 1 through December 31. Northside ISD adds two additional days of testing for secondary students (November and February).
- 6. Are there any charges for the tests?**
For acceleration, there is no fee. However, a refundable deposit of \$30 is required at the time of application. This deposit is forfeited in the event that the student does not take the test as scheduled.
For recovery or validation, there is a non-refundable \$45 fee for each semester test.
- 7. What is the difference between Acceleration, Validation, and Recovery?**
Acceleration applies to students in Grades K-12 attempting to test out of a grade or course without having had prior instruction.
Validation applies to students in Grades 6-12 needing to validate credit from home school or non-accredited private or public school.
Recovery applies to students in Grades 6-12 trying to recover credit for a failed course.
- 8. Is there a limit to the number of credits a student may earn through Credit-by-Exam?**
Yes. Except for purposes of validation of non-accredited schooling, a student may earn a total of five (5) high school credits to be counted toward graduation requirements.
- 9. Are the scores received on Credit-by-Exam tests recorded in the student record? Are they used in computing the student's grade point average at the high school level?**
Scores earned on the Credit-by-Exam tests are recorded in the student record if the student passes and the parent/guardian does not reject the credit within 90 days of being notified of the score. At the high school level, these scores are used in computing the student's grade point average.
- 10. Can students retake Credit-by-Exam tests if they do not pass the test on their first attempt?**
Yes, students may retake the tests. However, they must wait one calendar year before retesting. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Director of

Testing & Evaluation. Students may not retake a CBE test that they have previously passed.

11. Can students take more than one test at a time?

Yes, a student may take a maximum of two (2) tests on one test date.

NOTE: Because of the District decision to grant credit by semester (as opposed to the previous method of granting credit for a full year), high school students must now test out of courses by semester. Each semester test is considered one test; therefore, a student can take two semester tests per test date.

12. What are the passing standards? Do they vary from subject to subject?

For acceleration, a grade of 85% or higher is required to award credit. (Exception – for Grades 1 and 2 Science and Social Studies, a grade of 70% is required.)

For validation or recovery of credit, a grade of 70% is required to award credit.