

# Kindergarten Acceleration/Credit by Exam FAQs

## What is Credit by Exam (CBE) for Acceleration?

Students in grades 1-12 who desire to accelerate a grade or receive credit for a course without ever taking the course are provided the opportunity to do so at least four times every year.

## When is CBE testing offered?

See the Credit by Exam webpage for testing and registration information.

## What is kindergarten acceleration?

Kindergarten acceleration is the process by which a student meets specified criteria and enters first grade without attending kindergarten.

## Is my child eligible for kindergarten acceleration?

A child **must be** enrolled in Calallen ISD and be five years old on or before September 1 of the current year in order to be eligible to participate in the kindergarten acceleration program.

## Is kindergarten acceleration part of the Gifted and Talented Program in Calallen ISD?

No, your child may be considered for this program at a later date under a different set of criteria.

## How do I register for Kindergarten Acceleration?

Parents interested in kindergarten acceleration for their child should make an appointment to discuss this option with the student's principal and/or counselor. The parent must complete and submit the application form for kindergarten acceleration to the campus office by July 1.

## How should my child prepare for the Kindergarten Acceleration test?

The screening tests are designed to determine academic strengths PRIOR to formal instruction; therefore, the Calallen ISD does not provide study materials or furnish textbooks. Your child should arrive at the testing site well rested and well fed. A list of the kindergarten TEKS (state mandated curriculum) can be obtained at the following website, <http://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/teks/>

## What should my child bring to the test site?

Kindergarten acceleration students will have writing implements and other testing materials provided to them.

## What happens if my child is late to the testing center?

Late arrivals (up to thirty minutes) will be admitted but must sign a waiver agreeing to a shortened total time for testing.

## May I be present in the room while my child is taking the tests?

No, you will need to wait outside the testing center.

## When is the registration deadline for Kindergarten Acceleration?

The application forms for **Kindergarten Acceleration** must be completed and returned to the campus office by **July 1** of the current school year.

## What documentation is needed as part of the criteria for kindergarten advanced placement?

1. [Kindergarten Acceleration Registration Form](#) completed
2. Principal/counselor interview and signature

3. Copy of birth certificate
4. Proof of residency

### **What are the passing requirements?**

In order to advance to first-grade, the student must score in the 90th percentile or above (for kindergarteners for that test administration) on the district approved assessments in **reading, writing and mathematics**. These assessments measure cognitive development and academic skills that are appropriate for students completing kindergarten. Test content is based on the **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** for kindergarten students.

For math and reading, students are tested on the computer using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) software. Writing is assessed through a series of activities which require the students to demonstrate an understanding of the writing process.

## **Credit by Exam**

For grades 1-12, CBEs are ordered from and scored by Texas Tech University. Tests must be taken and returned to Texas Tech for scoring within a 6 month period.

### **How can my child prepare for the CBE test?**

Since the purpose of testing is to determine academic strengths PRIOR to formal instruction, the Calallen ISD does not provide study materials or furnish textbooks.

### **What time do the CBE tests start?**

Everyone that completes the registration process will be mailed a letter with specific dates and times for their CBE test.

### **What should my child bring to the test site?**

Students in grades 1-12 CBE exams need to bring two #2 pencils, paper, a black pen and a calculator for some math tests. Some tests require that work be done ahead of time and turned in at the test.

### **What is the cost?**

For CBEs **without** prior instruction, the district will incur the cost; however, students registering for a CBE will be required to submit a \$25 deposit per test upon registration. The test deposit for the CBE for acceleration will be refunded when the student takes the test(s).

For CBEs **with** prior instruction, a fee of \$25 per test will be charged.

**Grades 1-8:** Students need to score a minimum of 80 percent on each of the four criterion-referenced tests that covers the essential knowledge and skills of the respective grade they wish to skip. If the student scores at least 80 percent on each of the four criterion-referenced tests, a school district representative recommends that the student be accelerated. The parent or guardian then must give approval for the acceleration.

### **Grades 9-12:**

1. A three or higher on a College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examination that was approved by the Board for the applicable course;
2. A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and approved by the Board for the applicable course; or

3. Eighty percent or above on a criterion-referenced test that covers the essential knowledge and skills of the respective course they wish to skip.

**What grade will be recorded on my child's transcript?**

When the student receives credit for this course, school district personnel must record the examination score on the transcript.

**When will I be notified of my child's results?**

You will be notified of your child's test results approximately six weeks after the testing window closes. Test results will also be sent to the campus of the student's enrollment.