

What is Credit-by-Exam?

Credit-by-Examination (CBE) is a TEKS-based criterion-referenced examination which provides students in elementary grades an opportunity to accelerate in grade levels, and students taking secondary academic courses required under the Texas Education Code Sec. §28.023 an opportunity to earn course credit without having received prior instruction. CBE may also be used for students who are enrolling from home schools, unaccredited private schools, or foreign schools and students for whom no records are available, including Kindergarten students.

When is Credit-by-Exam administered?

The HISD Student Assessment Department coordinates annual CBE administrations during the district's four testing windows. There are two (2) in the fall, one (1) in the spring and one (1) in the summer. Additionally, campuses may schedule test administrations on an individual basis, as needed. For the 2023-2024 school year, HISD will sponsor the following testing windows:

Fall CBE #1	September 25- October 2, 2023
Fall CBE #2	November 6 - 10, 2023
Spring CBE #3	February 12 - 16, 2024
Summer CBE #4	June 17 - 24, 2024

When are the CBE ordering windows?

Campus testing coordinators must order CBEs prior to the testing window. Orders submitted after the ordering window will not be processed.

Fall CBE #1	August 14 – August 25
Fall CBE #2	October 2 – October 13
Spring CBE #3	January 8 – January 22
Summer CBE #4	May 13 – May 24

Can parents request to have their child tested outside the set district testing windows?

Yes, a parent may request CBEs outside of the district testing window and will be responsible for the cost associated with those exams.

Who provides CBE testing?

The University of Texas @ Austin and Texas Tech University are state approved providers of CBE. Assessments purchased from Texas Tech University are not sponsored by the HISD Student Assessment Department

How many CBE exams are allotted per campus through Student Assessment annually?

Elementary campuses are allotted 20 exams annually and secondary campuses are allotted 40 exams.

How are CBEs administered in HISD?

Annually, the HISD Student Assessment Department coordinates CBEs administered during the district's four (4) set testing windows for acceleration purposes only.

Test Administration Mode: Online (K-12)

Are CBEs available in different languages?

CBEs, except for foreign language exams, are only available in English. In previous years, CBEs for Spanish I & II were district-created and used for (a) original credit only, not credit recovery; (b) students without prior instruction; and (c) Spanish native speakers (EL or not).

What is the CBE passing requirement for students in grades K-5?

Students in grades K–5 must score 80% or higher in each of the following core areas on the CBE to advance:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Note: Passing scores from two (2) different CBE administrations for grades K-5 may be used to meet passing requirements for the four (4) core areas. Spring and Summer CBE administrations for students in grades K-5 may only be considered for placement for the upcoming academic school year.

What is the CBE passing requirement for students in grades 6-12?

A student in grades 6 -12 must be given credit for an academic subject in which s/he has had no prior instruction if the student scores:

- A three (3) or higher on a College Board advanced placement examination that has been approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College- Level Examination Program and approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course; or
- 80% on any other criterion-referenced test approved by the school district board of trustees for the applicable course.

A student in grades 6-12 may not attempt to earn CBE for a specific high school course more than two (2) times during his/her high school career. If a student fails to earn CBE for a specific high school course before the beginning of the school year in which the student would ordinarily be required to enroll in that course in accordance with the school district's prescribed course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit.

When should I go to the TMC to pick up CBE materials? How do I get my materials?

All CBE results will be given to district, and results will be shared with the campuses once received.

For additional questions regarding CBE, contact the HISD Student Assessment Department at (713) 349-7460 or via email at Assessment@houstonisd.org