



DSISD Acceleration/Credit by Exam FAQs

What is Acceleration/Credit by Exam?

Credit by Exam or Exam for Acceleration is an intervention that moves students through an educational program at rates faster, or at younger ages, than typical. It means matching the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to the readiness and motivation of the student. All forms of acceleration require high academic ability. The student's motivation, social-emotional maturity, interests, and other factors must be considered when making decisions about acceleration.

DSISD Vision: We inspire and equip students to be life-long learners and positive contributors to the world.

DSISD Mission: We partner with students, parents, and the community to provide a personal and exceptional education for every student.

My student is Accelerated. Now what?

Elementary (Grade 1-Grade 5)

A plan for acceleration will be developed. The plan could include:

- a. Attending academic subject instruction in a different grade level
- b. Working with above grade level curriculum in a small group, independently in the student's own age-based classroom (instructed by the current classroom teacher) and/or online learning
- c. Other instructional arrangements that best fit the academic and social emotional needs of the student to be determined by a committee of campus administration, teachers, and parents.

Secondary (Grade 6-Grade 12)

The student will be enrolled in the appropriate next level course and his/her transcript will reflect completion and credit for the assessed course.

Acceleration/Credit by Exam (CBE) Need to Knows:

Once a student is considered accelerated,

- A course the student is enrolled in may be offered at a location other than their home campus, therefore a bus ride during the school day may be necessary.
- Students may be placed in a classroom or course with students who are a year or more older than the student.
- As students enter high school, they may find that they have completed all requirements for a specific required subject area earlier than would be expected. This might cause a year or more of minimal exposure to that specific content prior to graduating and entering a higher education setting. For example, if a student completes all required math courses by their sophomore year, they may not attend another math course until after they graduate and enter a college or university.
- Acceleration and Credit by Exams (CBEs) are exams that test the basic knowledge of a course/subject. These exams are not designed to test the advanced capabilities of a student. For example, if a student passes the 8th grade math exam, they have shown a basic understanding of 8th grade math content and may or may not be prepared to move on to a Pre-AP or AP level course.

STAAR Requirements for Accelerated Students: Grade 1 - Grade 12

What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are receiving instruction in subjects above their enrolled grade?

These students should take STAAR assessments for the subjects in which they are receiving instruction if an assessment exists. For example, a student in grade 7 who is receiving instruction in grade 8 science would take the STAAR grade 8 science assessment and the STAAR grade 7 mathematics, reading, and writing assessments.

For students who are receiving accelerated instruction across multiple grade levels, district staff will evaluate the content of the instruction as it relates to the STAAR grade-level assessments to ensure that students are provided the best opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the grade-level content. For example, if students are receiving instruction in all grades 6 and some grade 7 mathematics curriculum during a school year, the students should be administered the STAAR grade 6 mathematics assessment. It would not be appropriate to administer the grade 7 assessment to these students since they have not been given the opportunity to learn all the grade 7 mathematics curriculum.

What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course that has a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment?

Students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course will take the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment in place of their grade-level assessment in that subject area. These students must take all other STAAR grade-level assessments. For example, a grade 8 student enrolled in Algebra I will take the STAAR Algebra I assessment, as well as the STAAR grade 8 reading, science, and social studies assessments.

What are the testing requirements for students in grades 3–8 who are enrolled in a high school course that does not have a corresponding STAAR EOC assessment?

- For mathematics, these students would still be required to take their grade-level STAAR assessment since there is not a STAAR EOC assessment to take and because students are required by federal law to be assessed annually in grades 3–8 in mathematics. For example, a grade 8 student enrolled in geometry will take the STAAR grade 8 mathematics assessment (since there is not a STAAR geometry assessment), as well as the other grade 8 assessments.
- For science, students in grades 5 and 8 would still be required to take their grade-level STAAR assessment if they have not already taken it since students are required by federal law to be assessed in science at least once in elementary and once in middle school.
- For social studies, students in grade 8 would not be required to take their grade-level assessment since there is no federal requirement to test in social studies.
- For writing, students in grades 4 and 7 would not be required to take their grade-level assessment.
- This question is not applicable for reading since there is a reading test in every grade from 3–10 to satisfy federal requirements.

If students in grades 3–8 are receiving above-grade-level instruction (including instruction in a high school-level course), are they required to take both the higher level and the enrolled-grade-level assessment in the same content area?

No. Students in grades 3–8 are not required to take two tests in the same content area. TEA discourages districts from double-testing accelerated students.

What are the testing requirements for students in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2 who are receiving instruction in subjects above their enrolled grade level?

There are no STAAR testing requirements for students enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2, so these students do not test. STAAR testing requirements begin with students enrolled in grade 3.

What are the general testing requirements for students enrolled in high school courses?

Regardless of enrolled grade level, students should take STAAR EOC assessments (Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History) as they are completing the corresponding courses since these assessments are required for high school graduation based on TEC §39.025. All students enrolled in Algebra II and/or English III must take the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment if the district chooses to participate in those assessments.