

# STUDENT SCREENING FOR CREDIT-BY-EXAM

[2010 - 2011 School Year]

Students with high achievement and ability in grades K-5 have the opportunity to use “credit-by-exam” to skip a grade level. To apply to take the test to skip kindergarten, a student must be 5 by September 1. To apply to take the test to skip grade 1, a student must be 6 by September 1.

Students who earn scores of 90 on each component of the credit-by-exam will be qualified to advance one grade. Only one grade level may be “skipped” each year. No retests will be given.

If you are interested in getting more information about credit-by-exam, please contact the school counselor no later than May 14<sup>th</sup> for summer testing or August 30<sup>th</sup> for fall testing.

1. Campuses check current academic performance records for those students whose parents respond to the credit-by-exam notice or whose teachers recommend them. While we cannot refuse to test a child, we want to make sure parents understand that these exams are academically challenging - not just basic skills - and cover the TEKS for the entire grade-level.
2. **Summer Testing**
  - Obtain parents’ permission to administer the exams. Testing will be conducted in a districtwide setting.
  - Complete Part I of the application form for K-4 students and send to Linda Macias’ office by the due dates listed for the 2010-2011 school year on the “timeline” on page 2.
  - For fifth grade students who want to skip subjects in grade 6, follow the application procedures and timeline for middle school sent by the secondary office.
  - Students who want to skip grades K-5 will be tested on **Friday, June 4, 2010.**
3. **Fall Testing**
  - Students unable to attend the June testing date because of illness, vacation, emergency situations, etc, along with students new to the district, will be tested at their campus during the first two weeks of school in the fall (August 23 - 27 and August 30 – September 3).
  - Campus testing will be done by assistant principals or instructional specialists.
  - Changes in grade placement will be made by **Thursday, September 9, 2010.**
4. Test results will be sent to parents by first-class mail.



The State Board of Education has established procedures to allow elementary students to “skip” one grade level by taking a series of exams which assess the Texas Essential Knowledge/Skills (TEKS) established for that grade level. Parents interested in having their children screened for credit-by-exam should phone the school counselor by \_\_\_\_\_ at (\_\_\_\_\_). If the school is unable to answer a question, call Linda Macias at the Instructional Support Center (281-897-4118).

**Step #1 —** **INITIAL SCREENING**

**The following criteria will be useful to school personnel in helping parents decide if credit-by-exam is an appropriate consideration for individual students.**

**[To skip Kindergarten and Grade 1]**

To be eligible for Credit-by-Exam, kindergarten students must be **5 on or before September 1**; first graders must be **6 on or before September 1**. Additional criteria to be considered are noted below.

- Completed kindergarten in a private school in Texas or public school out-of-state; or
- Demonstrate above-level achievement on the end-of-year kindergarten benchmarks given in May (to skip first grade); or
- Be formally identified as Gifted/Talented [HORIZONS]; or
- Parent request

**[To skip Grades 2-5]**

- Work on grade level with (A’s) or (E’s) in language arts, math, science and social studies; or
- Be formally identified as Gifted/Talented [HORIZONS]; or
- Score at the 90%ile in both reading and math on any standardized test; or
- Parent request

**Step #2 —** **CREDIT-BY-EXAM**

Students' scores on the credit-by-exam tests will be examined to see if any of the three tiers for advanced placement have been met. Students who meet Tier I criteria — [scores of 90 on each subtest of the exam or a total score of 350+] — may automatically advance one grade level. Two additional “tiers” of scores may qualify a student to be placed in the next grade level on a probationary basis for 6 weeks before the principal and parent make the final grade-placement decision. The credit-by-exam scores will be the sole measure used to determine if a child qualifies for advanced placement.

<b>SPRING SEMESTER TIMELINE</b>	<b>FALL SEMESTER TIMELINE</b>
<b>Community Notice</b> – Last week in March	<b>Community Notice</b> – Registration – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wk. of School
<b>Applications (Gr. K-4)</b> Due to Linda Macias – Wed., May 12, 2010	<b>Applications</b> – Due to Linda Macias by August 31, 2010. <b>Test In Home School</b> – Aug. 23-27 & Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2010
<b>Test – Gr.K-5</b> (Fri., June 4, 2010 – Danish Elementary 11850 Fallbrook Drive, Houston 77065)	<b>Completed Tests</b> Due to Linda Macias – September 3, 2010
<b>Test Results to School &amp; Parent</b> – June 30, 2010	<b>Test Results to School &amp; Parent</b> – September 8, 2010
<b>Advance Student One Grade Level – Fall, 2010</b>	<b>Advance Student One Grade Level – September 9, 2010</b>

Applications for June testing – due to  
Linda Macias by **May 12**.  
Applications for August/Sept. testing –  
due to Linda Macias by **Aug. 31**.

## CREDIT-BY-EXAM APPLICATION [Elementary]

\_\_\_\_\_ (Current School Year)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Birth Date)

**M** **F**  
(Please circle)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street (Apt. #) City Zip Code

### PART I: Screening Criteria - [To assist parents in making a decision to request testing]

#### TO SKIP KINDERGARTEN

— (Must be 5 by September 1)

- A. Parent request
- B. Recommended by pre-kindergarten teacher
- C. Completed kindergarten in a private school or public school out-of-state

#### TO SKIP GRADE 1

— (Must be 6 by September 1)

- A. Completed kindergarten with (E's) in language arts and in math
- B. Formally identified as G/T (HORIZONS)
- C. Parent Request
- D. Other: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

#### TO SKIP GRADES 2-5

- A. Earned A's at the previous grade level in language arts, math, science, and social studies in on-level work
- B. Formally identified as G/T (HORIZONS)
- C. Parent Request
- D. Other: [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

I give permission for my child to take the credit-by-exam tests and understand that test scores will be the sole measure used to determine if my child qualifies for advanced placement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

- Student qualifies for credit-by-exam.
- Special exception has been granted for this student.
- New enrollee for 2010-2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal Signature)