

Mercedes I.S.D.

**Exam for Acceleration Guidelines:
Without Prior Instruction**



2018-2019

A. Introduction

According to Texas State Board of Education rules, school districts must offer examinations for acceleration at every grade level and for every subject area offered in grades 1-12.

According to TEA policy §74.24 Credit by Examination (c)(6), a student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course more than two times.

B. MISD Board Policy

(EHDC Legal)

With board approval, a district shall develop or purchase examinations for acceleration (without having received prior instruction) that thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills for each primary school grade level and for credit for secondary school academic subjects.

KINDERGARTEN– GRADE 5

A district shall develop procedures for kindergarten acceleration that are approved by the board.

A district shall accelerate a student in grades 1–5 one grade level if the student meets the following requirements:

- The student scores 80 percent or above on a criterion-referenced test for the grade level to be skipped in each of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
- A district representative recommends that the student be accelerated; and
- The student’s parent or guardian gives written approval of the acceleration.

GRADES 6–12

A district shall give a student in grades 6–12 credit for an academic subject in which the student has received no prior instruction if the student scores:

- A three or higher on a College Board advanced placement examination that has been approved by the board for the applicable course;
- 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
- Eighty percent or above on any other criterion-referenced test approved by the board for the applicable course.

If a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination on which the student scored 80 percent or higher, a district shall enter the examination score on the student’s transcript and the student is not required to take an end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument under Education Code 39.023(c) for the course.

BOARD-APPROVED EXAMINATIONS

The board shall approve for each high school course, to the extent available, at least four examinations that shall include College Board advanced placement examinations and examinations administered through CLEP.

The examinations may be developed by The University of Texas at Austin, the school district, or another entity. If using a district-developed examination or an examination developed by another entity, prior to the first administration, a district must certify that the examination:

- Covers all assessable Texas essential knowledge and skills for the course;
- Has not been published and is not publicly available;
- Will only be administered in a secure environment under standardized conditions by a school district or institution of higher education;
- Has been externally validated;
- Is equivalent to state level EOC assessment instruments in terms of content coverage, item difficulty, and technical quality;
- Yields comparable results for all subgroups; and
- If for a course that has a state level EOC assessment instrument, is validated against the applicable EOC assessment. For a course that is validated for this purpose, a school district must make public:
 - a. The test development process; and
 - b. The results of the validation efforts.

District-developed examinations for courses that do not have an EOC assessment shall meet all validation requirements at items 1–7 above no later than the 2018–19 school year for each examination offered for credit.

Examinations developed by The University of Texas at Austin for courses that do not have a state EOC assessment shall meet all requirements at items 1–7 above not later than the 2018–19 school year for each of its examinations offered for credit. An EOC assessment administered under Education Code 39.023(c) cannot be used for purposes of credit by examination.

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION

A district shall administer each exam approved by the board not fewer than four times each year. A district must provide windows to test between January 1 and March 31, April 1 and June 30, July 1 and September 30, and October 1 and December 31, unless the exam's administration date is established by an entity other than the district. The days need not be consecutive but shall be designed to meet the needs of all students. The dates must be publicized in the community.

A district may allow a student to accelerate at a time other than those described above by developing a cost-free option approved by the board that allows students to demonstrate academic achievement or proficiency in a subject or grade level.

STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN SUBSTITUTE CARE

A district shall provide opportunities for a student who is homeless or in substitute care who transfers to the district after the start of the school year to be administered credit by examination at any point during the school year.

LIMITATIONS ON TAKING EXAMINATIONS

A student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course more than two times. If a student fails to earn credit by examination 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 district's prescribed course sequence, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit for the course.

FEES

A district shall not charge for examinations for acceleration. If a parent requests an alternative examination, the district may administer and recognize results of a test purchased by the parent or student from Texas Tech University or the University of Texas at Austin.

Education Code 28.023; 19 TAC 74.24, 101.3021(c)

(EHDC Local)

If a student in grades 1–12 wishes to accelerate to the next grade level or earn course credit without having received prior instruction in the grade level or course, the District shall offer opportunities in accordance with state law and State Board rules for the student to take a Board-approved examination for this purpose.

-KINDERGARTEN ACCELERATION

In accordance with State Board rules, the Board shall approve procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old at the beginning of the school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include:

- Scores on readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel.
- Recommendation of the kindergarten or preschool the student has attended.
- Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student.
- Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and Superintendent.

C. Exam for Acceleration Procedures**Deposit Required**

The District shall require a refundable deposit of \$25.00 for each examination requested at the time of application (i.e. Student applies for Spanish I and there is Spanish IA and Spanish IB, therefore, the student must place a deposit of \$50.00 if taking both A and B). The parent or student shall deposit \$25.00 per examination with the campus cashier. The campus cashier shall issue a receipt which will be required by the Counseling Office to sign up for an examination (attached to application form).

Forfeiture of Deposit

The deposit shall be forfeited for any exam requested but not completed by the student on the date established for the exam.

Refund of Deposit

The deposit shall be refunded for each exam completed by the student on the date established for the exam. Participation shall be verified by the Campus Head Counselor. The Counselling office will complete a check request form and submit it and the refund information to the district Finance Department. Completed check requests will be processed according to the usual accounting timeline and a check will be mailed to the parent or student within 10 days.

D. Exam for Acceleration Schedule 2018 – 2019

For criterion-referenced test offered by The University of Texas at Austin
<http://cee.utexas.edu/ce/k16/files/forms/indi-stand.pdf>

Credit by Exam (6th – 12th)
(Without prior Instruction)

Fall 2018

Deadline for Application

Time/Test Date

September 7, 2018 (12:00 pm)

4:30 p.m. October 5 / 6

October 5, 2018 (12:00 pm)

4:30 p.m. November 8 / 9

Spring 2019

Deadline for Application

Time/Test Date

February 1, 2018 (12:00 pm)

4:30 p.m. March 1 / March 2

March 22, 2018 (12:00 pm)

4:30 p.m. April 27 / 28

Exam for Acceleration (K – 5th)
(Without prior Instruction)

2018 – 2019

Deadline for Application

Time/Test Date

July 12, 2018 (12 pm)

Campus discretion but must be complete
by August 10, 2018

April 25, 2019 (12 pm)

Campus discretion but must be complete
by May 30, 2019

Check with your campus counselor for applications.

* A \$25 deposit is required per exam. A picture I.D. and a blank cassette (Spanish test only) will be required. Tests will not be administered without these items.

PLEASE NOTE: NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED