



# Texarkana

Independent School District

## EXAM FOR ACCELERATION

*(With no prior instruction)*

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** *What are Exams for Acceleration?*

**A:** Exams for Acceleration (EA) provide an opportunity to earn grade level or course credit in which no prior formal instruction was provided. Exams for Acceleration are designed for a very small percentage of students who have an academic and emotional desire to advance a course or grade level.

**Q:** *What are the eligibility requirements for a student to participate in EA?*

**A:** Students must meet all eligibility requirements to register for EA testing:

- Student will be at least 5 years old by September 1 of the current year.
- Student is enrolled in a Texarkana ISD school.
- EA Registration form is completed and returned by the deadline listed on the application.
- School principal signs registration form verifying student's grade level and eligibility.

**Q:** *Where do the tests come from?*

**A:** Texarkana ISD orders the tests from the University of Texas and Texas Tech University.

**Q:** *What is on the test?*

**A:** The tests are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

**Q:** *When are Exams for Acceleration offered?*

**A:** Examination dates will be posted on the application for that year. They will also be posted on the district website. [http://www.txkisd.net/forcurriculum/assessment\\_creditbyexam.asp](http://www.txkisd.net/forcurriculum/assessment_creditbyexam.asp)

**Q:** *How many tests will my student take?*

**A:** Students attempting to earn credit for a grade level K-8 will take four subject-area exams: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Student attempting to earn high school course credit will take two tests per course. The following courses are not available for acceleration at this time: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, or U.S. History.

**Q:** *How much does it cost?*

**A:** There are no charges for students who take the tests. However, a deposit of \$25 per test in the form of a check or money order made out to Texarkana ISD must be submitted with the registration form. If the student takes the exams, this deposit will be returned. The deposit will not be returned for students who register for an EA and do not attend/change mind about testing.

**Q:** *When will my student receive his/her score?*

**A:** Test results will be sent to parents as soon as the results arrive in the district. This may take up to 6 weeks.

**Q:** *What score does my student need to earn in order to accelerate?*

**A:** Students must earn 80% on all four subject-area exams to earn credit for an entire grade level. High school students must earn 80% on each semester exam to earn credit for a course.

**Q:** *What score does my student need to earn if they have had prior instruction in the course tested?*

**A:** Students must earn 70% on all four subject-area exams to recover credit for an entire grade level. High school students must earn 70% on each semester exam to earn credit for a course they have previously taken.

**Q:** *Can my student retest if he/she is not successful?*

**A:** One retest opportunity is allowed. Legislation prevents more than two attempts at EA for a specific grade level or course.

**Q:** *Are there study guides available?*

**A:** The district does not provide study guides, textbooks, or other resource materials to students to prepare for acceleration exams. Resources are available to students and parents at:

*[http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/cbe\\_review\\_sheets.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/cbe_review_sheets.php)*

*<http://www.utexas.edu/ce/k16/downloads/>*

**Q:** *Can my student attempt to accelerate through several grades/courses at one time?*

**A:** Student must earn credit for one course or grade level as a prerequisite to attempting EA for the next course or grade level. For example, a student must earn credit for Spanish I before he/she can attempt the EA for Spanish II.

**Q:** *Where will my student test?*

**A:** During the school year, students will test on their home campus. In the summer, K – 8 students will test at Instructional Services. Grade 9 – 12 students will test on their home campuses in the summer.