



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: First Reading of Policy EHDC (LOCAL): Alternative Methods for Earning Credit – Credit by Examination without Prior Instruction

SUBMITTED BY: Cynthia Rodriguez, Executive Director for Elementary Education

OF: Curriculum & Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: January 16, 2013

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve First Reading of Policy EHDC (LOCAL): Alternative Methods for Earning Credit – Credit by Examination without Prior Instruction

In order to effectively assess incoming Kindergarten students who may meet the criteria for Credit By Exam and acceleration to 1st grade, it is recommended that students be assessed with a standardized test that measures the Texas Essential knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Reading and Math in Kindergarten.

Rationale:

Budgetary Information:

Board Policy Reference and Compliance:

ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR EARNING CREDIT
CREDIT BY EXAMINATION WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTION

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TEST SELECTION	The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the development or selection of tests a student may use to earn course credit or accelerate to the next grade level without prior instruction in a course or grade level. Each examination shall thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills in the applicable course or grade level.
TEST DATES	The Superintendent or designee shall establish a schedule of dates, in accordance with law, when examinations for acceleration shall be administered and shall ensure that the dates are published in appropriate District publications or on the District's Web site.
SPECIAL REQUESTS	The District may deny a parent's or student's request for an alternative examination or alternative date.
FEES	<p>The District shall not charge for an examination for acceleration administered on the published dates or alternative dates.</p> <p>However, the student's parent shall pay for an alternative examination approved by the District.</p>
CREDIT APPROVAL	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall award course credit or approve acceleration on the basis of an examination for acceleration, in accordance with State Board rules.</p> <p>A student in grades 9–12 may decline the credit earned by submitting a written request, signed by the student's parent or guardian, within 30 days of being notified of the student's score.</p>
KINDERGARTEN ACCELERATION	<p>The Board shall approve procedures developed by the Superintendent or designee to allow a child who is five years old on or before Sept. 1st of the incoming school year to be assigned initially to grade 1 rather than kindergarten. Criteria for acceleration may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scores on District-approved readiness tests or achievement tests that may be administered by appropriate District personnel. A parent request for testing for alternative placement must be submitted to the principal. A parent must complete the Application of Intent to Test Credit-By-Exam Form within the first two weeks of school.2. Chronological age and observed social and emotional development of the student. In order to be placed in first grade, the student must demonstrate academic achievement or proficiency in skills and abilities required in kindergarten. Achievement and proficiency shall be demonstrated through the following:

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- a. Must score a 90 or above on both the English Language Arts and Reading and Mathematics Kindergarten exams from Texas Tech University.
 - b. Recommendations from a placement committee (principal, counselor, and teacher) concerning performance and social skills; and
 - c. Successful completion of a one-week trial placement in first grade, if recommended by the placement committee.
3. A placement committee shall determine the appropriate placement after reviewing all data collected.
 4. The parent or guardian shall be contacted in writing by the campus principal after the placement decision has been made.
 5. ~~Other criteria deemed appropriate by the principal and Superintendent.~~