ACCELERATION AND CREDIT BY EXAM

Credit by Exam provides a way for students to receive credit and advance. In order to qualify to take a credit by exam, the student must be registered in a Garland ISD school and attending or enrolled to attend.

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade may test to move ahead one grade level. Middle and High school students may earn credit in a course that they have not taken. High school students under certain circumstances may earn credit for a course which they took but did not receive credit due to absences or grade failure.

Kindergarten Acceleration Information

Qualifications for Testing

The Texas Education Agency mandates that school districts establish their own process for grade level acceleration. The kindergarten acceleration program for Garland ISD tests students wishing to skip Kindergarten* and be placed directly into first-grade. In order to qualify for Kindergarten acceleration, the student must meet the following requirements:

- **Student must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 -** *there are NO exceptions to this policy. This is state law. Students under the age of 5 by September 1 may NOT start kindergarten or accelerate through kindergarten.*
- Student must be registered for Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year in Garland ISD.
- **Application must be completed and submitted prior to deadline. Application can be submitted via email to cbe@garlandisd.net**
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If both of these qualifications are met, then a parent/guardian may request that his/her child test for placement in first-grade. To determine whether testing and possible placement in first-grade are the best options, parents, students and staff should consider the following:
- Academic rigor of first grade
- Social and emotional impact on student
- Effect of skipping a grade level on the student's overall educational experience.

Garland ISD strongly encourages all learners to participate in kindergarten due to the social, developmental, emotional and academic benefits this grade level provides.

About the Test

In order to advance to first grade, the student must score 80% on the EOY (end of the year) for Kindergarten on the NWEA/MAP Growth assessment in both reading and math.

Test content is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Kindergarten students.

Students are tested on the computer using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) software.

A practice test is available at this link MAP practice test - please use Google Chrome. This practice test is only meant to familiarize the student with how questions are presented on the computer, and it is not based on test content. Please be sure that your student knows how to work a mouse. The test is not given on a touch-screen device.

[MAP Practice Test l](#)ogin credentials:

Username: grow
Password: grow

Results and Acceleration

Results will be collected by the Research, Assessment and Accountability Department in Garland ISD. Results will be communicated with the family. The student must score at the 80% percentile for end of year kindergarten for each test: Math MAP and Reading MAP.

Should the student not score the required score on one or both tests, the parent may choose to retest the student during the next testing window. ***State law allows two lifetime opportunities to accelerate per grade level****. Should the parent decide to continue testing, the **student will have to re-take BOTH Math MAP and Reading MAP** regardless how the student performed on each test in the previous window.*

If your child is recommended for acceleration, it will be on a probationary basis. Should the school or teacher feel it is in the best social, emotional, or academic interest of the child to be placed back in Kindergarten, you will be contacted.

Application Deadlines and Testing Windows for Kindergarten Acceleration

Testing Window	Registration Deadline	Administration Window	Grade K placement Guidelines
April 1-June 30 & July 1- September 30, 2025	May 1, 2025	June 1- June 30 & July 1-July 30	Assessment given during this window are for acceleration through kindergarten; placement in 1st grade will occur the following school year (2025-2026)

Application for Kindergarten Acceleration

PART ONE (to be completed by parent/guardian) and returned via email to
cbe@garlandisd.net

Student's Local ID#: _____   Date of Birth: _____

Home Campus:_____

Name: _____
          Last   First   Middle

Address: _____
                    Street   Apt #

_____
          City   State   Zip code

Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: (_____) _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: _____

Please initial each statement:

1. *I understand that my student has* **TWO lifetime opportunities to accelerate per grade level**. *Retests MAY not occur during the same testing window (per state law). There is NO appeal process.*
_____

2. *I understand that if my child is unsuccessful with testing, I have an opportunity to choose to re-test my child during the next window.* **Should I decide to retest again, he/she will have to take BOTH Math MAP and Reading MAP** *again regardless of performance on one or both assessments during the previous window.* _____

3. *Should my child qualify to accelerate through kindergarten, the placement into 1st grade is made on a* **probationary basis, and It is up to the campus and campus administrators' discretion to place my child back into kindergarten**. _____

4. *If I am interested in a Magnet campus seat, I will need to contact the* Magnet office *and complete the application through the Magnet office.* **RAAD department cannot guarantee ANY magnet seat.** *Should your child already have a magnet seat for kindergarten, we cannot guarantee that GISD will have a magnet seat for first grade or at the same school. All magnet placements must go through the magnet office.* _____

PART TWO (To be completed by RAAD Department & Forwarded to home campus principal & counselor)

Assessment	RIT score	Percentile (spring EOY norms for K)	Met the assessment requirement (80 percentile)
MAP Growth K-2 Reading	163		
MAP Growth K-2 Math	167		

Please attach student profile page

PART THREE (to be completed by Home campus principal & counselor)

I have confirmed that the student meets all testing eligibility requirements for acceleration through Kindergarten, and I can also confirm that I have met with his/her parent or guardian and have discussed the impact of accelerating through kindergarten and entering first grade.

_____

Principal Signature   Printed Name   Date

_____

Counselor Signature   Printed Name   Date