

Parents/Guardians,

Texas students that are currently enrolled in TWO very specific courses, 6<sup>th</sup> grade *Advanced* Math or 7th grade *Level* math, and are interested in taking high school Algebra I next school year, are potentially impacted by this email. Students in these courses must earn credit for 8th grade math (Pre-Algebra) first, by state law, before *any* Texas student can take high school Algebra I. Students can earn that credit by achieving an 80 or above on the 8th Grade Math Credit by Exam (CBE) or by successfully completing 8th Grade Pre-Algebra in the optional April-July Accelerated Math Initial Credit Course with an 80 *average* or above. The optimal way to achieve Texas requirements for successfully completing 8th Grade Pre-Algebra is to take the course during the regular school year.

Details about the credit by exam are below. Information about spring/summer school will be available on the CISD website in the coming months. These details, dates, time allotments, and cut scores are all subject to change.

**Credit by Exam Information:**

- The window on CISD campuses for these tests to occur is February 22-February 26.
- The CBE will tentatively be administered on February 23, 2022.  
for **current** McCullough 7th grade Level math students who properly completed the application process on time.
- Students historically have had three hours to complete the exam.
- Students will be supplied a graphing calculator, pencil, scratch paper, and a formula chart.
- The CBE expects students to be able to use a graphing calculator. Test administrators will not be able to assist with questions about how to use a calculator.
- The exam historically has contained around 65 multiple-choice questions.
- Scores are sent to each campus by The University of Texas. Campuses, including us, are not in control of when these scores arrive. Typically, they arrive at the end of March.
- This is a difficult state exam of which it is important to remember your child has not received classroom instruction on the subject. Passing this exam with the required state cut score is a very difficult endeavor of which only around 15 percent of students are successful.
- Students should not take this exam just to see if they can pass. If a student passes this exam, they cannot take 8<sup>th</sup> grade math the next year. They will be placed in Algebra.
- You can find information regarding the objectives and sample questions in the study guide that is included below. TEKS being assessed are also referenced in the study guide.
- Link to the 8th Grade Math Credit by Exam for Acceleration study guide: <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/uths-eighth-math>

## Application Process

The application for the credit by exam is attached and can also be accessed using the link below. **Applications are due to the appropriate home campus counseling center by January 27, 2022.** The state will not accept late applications.

Link to application:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yehp1vFoHbTvlyfQNxOlcbyvUXqS9f9S/view?usp=sharing>

## Who to Contact After the Presentations

- Parents/Guardians of students currently at McCullough may contact LaToya Washington with any current seventh grade credit by exam specific questions at [llwashington@conroeisd.net](mailto:llwashington@conroeisd.net).
- Parents/Guardians of students currently at a McCullough sixth grade feeder campus- Credit by exam questions for current sixth grade students should be addressed by the home campus sixth grade counselor.

## 2021-2022 Credit by Exam for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

### Test Information:

- The exam contains 65 multiple-choice questions covering seven objectives. Information regarding the objectives and sample questions can be found in the study guide that is included below. TEKS are also referenced in the study guide.
- Link to the 8th Grade Math Credit by Exam for Acceleration study guide: <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/uths-eighth-math>
- The exam is timed and students have three hours to complete the exam.
- Students will need a graphing calculator, pencil, scratch paper, and the supplied formula chart.
- A student who passes the test has received 8<sup>th</sup> grade math credit and is not eligible to take 8<sup>th</sup> grade the next year.
- Students who receive documented accommodations must receive those accommodations on the CBE.

### Who should take the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade CBE?

- **Intermediate and K6 Campuses** Only students who are currently mastering their 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced math course work, 6<sup>th</sup> grade interim assessments, and previous year STAAR test and are interested in taking Algebra I as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader should take this test.
- **Junior High Campuses** Students who are currently mastering 7<sup>th</sup> grade math course work, 7<sup>th</sup> grade interim assessments, and previous year STAAR tests and who are interested in taking Algebra I as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.

### Can other students take this test?

- Yes, any student in 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced math or 7<sup>th</sup> grade math may sign up to take a CBE test. We cannot exclude students from testing. Make sure the student and the parent understands the rigor of the test. No students have historically passed the test without first mastering their current course work. Students who are not in 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced math are not eligible as they have not had any 7<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS exposure.

### What about the graphing calculators?

- Intermediate campuses are encouraged to first check with their feeder junior high to see if graphing calculators can be borrowed.
- Campuses can request graphing calculators through TAC using the link on the assessment site.
- Students may use their own graphing calculator. Check to see if it meets requirements using the STAAR Calculator policy. The memory *must* be cleared in the view of the test proctor.
- The graphing calculator app *Desmos* may be used if it is set to Texas Testing mode only.

### Can students retest if they do not pass the February test?

- Retesting is not encouraged. Students would be better served to take the summer school course if they are eligible because:
  - Students may NOT retest once they begin the summer course.
  - Students CANNOT get a refund on summer school tuition if they pass a retest after enrolling.
  - Students CANNOT enroll late in the summer school program if they take and do not pass the retest.
  - They may need instruction in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS to be successful in Algebra I.
- Retest will be ordered *one time only*. The exact date will be given once we receive scores back to allow for time to schools to receive and communicate scores to families.
- Students will retest on their own campus at a date and time designated by their campus.
- Do not seek out or advertise the retesting. Summer school is a better option academically for students. Let interested parents and students come to you.
- There is a \$25 non-refundable fee for each retest ordered. Parents will pay through the *SchoolCashOnline* website.
- Information about summer school will be available on the CISD website.