

KERRVILLE ISD  
133903

HORIZONS  
PLACEMENT  
CRITERIA

EHDC -R

RATIONALE

The goal of setting placement and exit criteria for HORIZONS classes in grades 6-8 is to provide students with the most appropriate instructional environment based on their level of achievement and ability.

STUDENT AND  
PARENT  
CONTRACT

Students eligible for placement in the HORIZONS classes have the option to decline participation. Students and parents will sign a contract stating they understand the level of instruction and additional time commitment required by enrollment in these classes.

PLACEMENT  
CRITERIA 6<sup>th</sup>  
GRADE

Entrance to 6<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS classes is based on a student meeting the criteria indicated for the content area below:

READING CRITERIA

Students must meet three of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- Commended on TAKS Reading
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in reading
- 7 or above on the STAR test
- A ranking of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation survey.

MATH CRITERIA

Students must meet three of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- Commended on TAKS math
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in math
- 27 out of 30 or above on math placement pre-test
- A ranking of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation survey.

Language arts and social studies placement is based on reading criteria. Science placement is based on math criteria.

PLACEMENT  
CRITERIA 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>  
GRADE

Entrance to 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS classes is based on students meeting the criteria indicated for the content area below:

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS READING:

Students must meet three of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- Commended on TAKS reading
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in reading
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS ENGLISH:

Students must meet four of the of criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- Commended status on TAKS reading
- A cumulative 90 average at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in English/Language
- Writing benchmark score of 3 or higher
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> HORIZONS MATH:

Students must meet four of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- Commended on TAKS math and mastery of all objectives.
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in math
- Stanine 6 or above on IAAT test.
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

8<sup>th</sup> grade ALGEBRA I:

Students must meet five of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- Stanine 8.5 or higher on IAAT test
- Commended on TAKS math and mastery of all objectives
- A minimum cumulative grade of 88 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in 7<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS Math
- A score of 87 or higher on a teacher designed higher level thinking test.
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS (pre-Algebra) class.

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade HORIZONS SOCIAL STUDIES:

Students must meet three of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in reading
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in social studies
- Commended on TAKS reading test
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

7<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE HORIZONS SCIENCE:

Students must meet three of these criteria:

- Being identified as gifted in math
- A minimum cumulative grade of 90 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks in science
- Commended on TAKS math
- A score of 5 out of 6 on a Performance and Motivation Survey.

MAINTENANCE  
CRITERIA FOR  
STUDENTS  
CURRENTLY IN  
HORIZONS  
CLASSES  
GRADES 6-8

HORIZONS READING, ENGLISH, MATH, SOCIAL  
STUDIES, and/or SCIENCE:

Students in these HORIZONS classes must maintain an 80 average and meet two additional placement criteria to advance to a HORIZONS class in that content area the following year.

EXIT CRITERIA  
FOR REMOVAL  
FROM HORIZONS  
CLASSES

Students must demonstrate continued academic success to remain in the HORIZONS/GT cluster classes. Students whose report card grade is 79 or below are required to have a conference with the teacher and parent to discuss a plan for improvement.

Students must maintain their grades the rest of the school year. If the student receives a grade of 79 or below on a second report card, the student may be removed from the HORIZONS/GT cluster class and reassigned to an on-level class. Students may be reassigned to an on-level class by parent request at any time.

The principal, teacher, and parents may agree to override the exit criteria and have the student remain in the HORIZONS/GT cluster group under special circumstances.