

## Academic Acceleration

State law requires all school districts to develop and use a student acceleration policy. The purpose of this law is to provide a student access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities. This law allows a district committee to place a student in a higher level than is typical, given the student's age. A district committee, which includes the child's parents, teachers and other school professionals, may accelerate a student from one grade to a higher grade. A district committee also may accelerate a student in one or more subjects to a higher grade in only those subjects.

*[Evergreen Local Schools BOE Policies # 5112, 5120, 5409, 5410, 5464]*

### 4 Types of Acceleration [5409]:

- Early Entrance to Kindergarten [5112]
- Subject Acceleration [5410]
- Whole Grade Acceleration [5410]
- Early Graduation [5464] *(with the intent to enroll in college)*

Procedures for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or Whole Grade Acceleration are outlined in the *Iowa Acceleration Scale*. General acceleration procedures may include:

- Referral
- Testing
- Data collection
- Data review by committee
- Committee decision
- Creation and implementation of Written Acceleration Plan (WAP)
- Reporting to EMIS

### Required Evaluation Committee Members

- Principal (or designee)
- Current Teacher
- Accelerated Content Teacher
- Parent or Legal Guardian
- Gifted Coordinator and/or Gifted Intervention Specialist (psychologist or guidance counselor with knowledge of acceleration practices, if gifted personnel not available)

### Collecting Data

- Ability tests
- Achievement tests
- Aptitude test (2 years above grade level)
- Other data such as Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), examples of work or additional test data

### **Written Acceleration Plan (WAP)**

- Address acquisition of minor “gaps in knowledge”
- Monitor student adjustment during transition period specified in WAP
- Help coordinate move to different building, if needed
- Provide orientation session or transition activities

At the end of a successful acceleration transition period:

- Obtain parent’s or guardian’s consent to make acceleration permanent for remainder of student’s K-12 experience
- Record acceleration in student’s cumulative folder to make acceleration permanent
- Report the acceleration in Educational Management Information System (EMIS)

### **Testing & Reporting Rules for Accelerated Students**

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Resources-for-Parents/Academic-Acceleration-for-Advanced-Learners/Testing-Rules-for-Subject-Accelerated-Students-2015.pdf.aspx>

### **Advanced Plus**

When a student is formally accelerated he/she is eligible for Advanced Plus weights on all state tests in that content area for the remainder of his/her school career. This weight is added to the performance index scores on the district report card. The student must score “proficient” or above on a state assessment.

### **ACCELERATION IMPACT ON THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE**

#### **Students accelerated to third grade or to third grade reading:**

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee applies to students accelerated to third grade or to third grade in reading. This means:

- The student takes a reading diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the school year; and
- The student must reach the promotion score on the Grade 3 English language arts test to be promoted to fourth grade. *[A student may be exempt from this requirement. Information on exemptions to retention is available in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual.]*

#### **Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade reading:**

Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade in reading take fourth grade assessments and do not participate in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

### **ACCELERATION IMPACT ON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

#### **Courses Offered for High School Credit**

In some cases, a large group of middle school students may meet objective criterion goals that the district addresses by offering an accelerated course for high school credit. If the middle school course is high school level content and taught by a licensed 7-12 teacher, then law stipulates the district shall give credit and start the high school transcript.