

6:135-AP Administrative Procedure - Accelerated Placement Program Procedures

I. Acceleration Philosophy & Definition

- A. Meridian CUSD #223 is committed to providing educational experiences that allow each student to reach their full potential. As such, we strive to provide accelerated courses of study for those students who demonstrate skills at levels well above their grade level.
- B. Acceleration options include:
 1. Early Kindergarten Entrance: admission of a student who will not be 5 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year
 2. Early First Grade Entrance: admission of a student who will not be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.
 3. Acceleration in a single academic subject (English Language Arts, Math)
 4. Full grade level skipping.
 5. Advanced Coursework
- C. Acceleration is not limited to students who have been deemed as “gifted” or “talented,” but to all students who objectively meet the criteria and follow procedures as stated in this document.

II. Early Kindergarten Entrance

- A. Process
 1. Referral: Parents, Teachers, or Administrators may refer a student to be evaluated for early kindergarten entrance.
 2. Data Collection: School staff will collect data from the Kindergarten Readiness Screener, DIBELS, and STAR CBM.
 3. Eligibility Determination: the building administrator will review the data collection and determine eligibility for early Kindergarten entrance. Eligibility must be determined by August 1, prior to the start of the school year.
- B. Academic Measures
 1. Kindergarten Readiness Screener: Letter Recognition and Sounds, Number Recognition, Rote Counting up to 20, and shape recognition must be at 90% or higher.
 2. DIBELS: The student needs to score at or above on Kindergarten Winter Benchmark, including Letter Naming.
- C. Birthday: For Kindergarten, only children who turn 5 prior to October 31.
- D. Probationary period: The student will be monitored for the first quarter to determine if early Kindergarten entrance is still the best placement for the student. If not, the students can return for Kindergarten the following year.

III. Early First Grade Entrance

- A. Process
 1. Screening: Kindergarten Readiness Screening occurs in March each year.
 2. Referral: Parents, Teachers, or Administrators may refer a student to be evaluated for early First Grade entrance.
 3. Data Collection: School staff will collect data from the First Grade Readiness Screener, DIBELS, and STAR CBM.

4. Eligibility Determination: the building administrator will review the data collection and determine eligibility for early First Grade Entrance. Eligibility must be determined by August 1, prior to the start of the school year.

B. Academic Measures

1. DIBELS - at or above on First Grade Fall Benchmark
2. STAR CBM: The student must score at or above the Fall First Grade Benchmark in Letter Naming, Letter Sounds, Numeral Recognition, and Quantity Comparison.

C. Birthday

1. For First Grade, only children who turn 6 between September 2 and October 31 will be considered for early admission.

D. Probationary period: The student will be monitored for the first quarter to determine if early First Grade entrance is still the best placement for the student. If not, the students can return for Kindergarten for the remainder of the school year.

IV. K-5 Subject Acceleration

A. Process*:

1. Early May: request or recommendation by parent, student, teacher, administrator
2. Early May: family letter sent with next steps
3. Late May: Teacher input gathered, academic data collected
4. Late May / Early June: results (eligible or not) and plans sent to families

B. Academic Measures

1. Math (Student must meet the qualifications of both a and b or condition c.)
 - a) Student must have a consistent history of scoring at or above the 90th percentile for at least the last calendar year (mean) on STAR Math Enterprise
 - b) Student must demonstrate proficiency (70%) on the Number Corner Checkup 4 of the grade level he/she intends to skip.
 - c) If the student has taken the IAR, he/she must fall into the category of Above Proficient.
2. ELA (Student must meet the qualifications of both a and b or condition c.):
 - a) Student must have a consistent history of scoring above the benchmark for at least the last calendar year (mean) on DIBELS Composite.
 - b) Student must have a consistent history of scoring at or above the 90th percentile for at least the last calendar year (mean) on STAR Reading Enterprise.
 - c) If the student has taken the IAR, he/she must fall into the category of Above Proficient.

C. Able to engage with novel concepts, ideas, texts, content or tasks

D. Teacher input on consistency of academic performance

*If the parent of an eligible student initially declines acceleration, but later determines they want that for the student, then the parent, teacher, and principal will meet to determine if a mid-year acceleration is appropriate.

V. K-5 Grade Level Acceleration

A. Criteria and timeline will be the same as subject acceleration, but the student qualifies in both Math and ELA.

VI. 6-8 Advanced Coursework

A. Math Advancement

1. 6th grade: Outgoing 5th grade students will be screened for 6th grade honors math and offered to take the course by meeting at least 2 out of 3 of following criteria:
 - a) Historical STAR PR consistently at or above the 75th PR. The average of the last two years of test data will be used to determine this measure.
 - b) Score 90% on the [5th Grade Bridges Number Corner Checkup 4](#).
 - c) 5th grade IAR Proficient or Above Proficient
2. 7th and 8th grade: outgoing 6th and 7th grade students who are not already in honors math in 6th grade will be screened and offered to take the next grade level's honors math with the following criteria:
 - a) Recent STAR Math PR consistently at or above the 75th PR
 - b) Previous grade level IAR Math Proficient or Above Proficient
 - c) Complete IXL lessons as prescribed

B. English Honors Courses

1. 6th grade: Outgoing 5th grade students will be screened for 6th grade Honors ELA/Literature and offered to take the course(s) with the following criteria:
 - a) STAR 5th grade Spring score must be At/Above State Benchmark
 - b) Demonstrate proficiency in writing through a writing sample (ELA)
 - c) 5th grade IAR Above Proficient

C. Timeline & Acceptance

1. Parents will be notified of qualification by August 1.
2. Student will be enrolled in the advanced course unless they opt out by the first Friday of the school year.

D. Stipulations

To remain in advanced coursework for future enrollment, the student must:

1. For Math:
 - a) Maintain a summative grade of B- (80%) in the advanced course
 - b) Continue to meet the advanced coursework criteria; the student must continue to score at or above the STAR benchmark in the original criteria and be Proficient or Above Proficient on IAR
 - c) 8th grade students enrolled in Algebra 1 must earn semester grades of B- each semester or score Above Proficient in either the Pre-ACT 8 math or IAR math portions of those tests. If they do not, they must retake Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
2. For ELA:
 - a) Maintain a summative grade of B- (80%) or higher in the course
 - b) Maintain a grade of A- (90%) or higher on major writing assignments
 - c) STAR scores must remain At/Above State Benchmark
 - d) IXL Benchmark scores must remain at grade level or higher (ie: 6th grade mid-point = 650+, end of 6th grade = 700+)

VII. 9-12 Advanced Coursework

Students wishing to take advanced coursework at Stillman Valley High School will need to consult the SVHS Course Guide and the requirements set forth in it for each course. Advanced coursework is available in Math and English, as well as dual credit courses and AP courses in multiple subject areas.