

513R Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design

Purpose

- The purpose of this regulation is to provide a student access to appropriate content when ready ahead of site based grade-level peers.

Acceleration Guidelines

- Acceleration acknowledges that a student has already achieved at the requisite level to qualify for a higher grade placement overall or in a specific subject.
- Acceleration is seen as Tier 3 placement for exceptional learners within the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework to be considered when the current grade level curriculum is a significant mismatch between the student's academic needs-and readiness as compared to their grade-level peers locally and nationally.
- Acceleration decisions must involve a comprehensive team discussion guided by an objective and timely process. The site team must consist of the building principal, the student's classroom teacher, and the school psychologist. The site team may also consist of the acceleration specialist, school counselor, and other personnel as deemed necessary by the individual student's needs.
- The acceleration specialist will maintain communication with the team during the evaluation period.
- The assignment of the student is the legal prerogative of the superintendent or designee.

Whole Grade Acceleration Procedure: (K-4)

1. The acceleration referral is made by the parent/guardian or district staff member based on the student's current academic performance using the district's referral form (Acceleration Request form). This form is automatically sent to the Acceleration Specialist who will forward it onto the building principal and school psychologist. Written approval is obtained from the parent/guardian for an assessment process to begin regarding potential acceleration by completing and signing the Acceleration Request Form. The process may be initiated at any time. However, in order for a request to pertain to the following academic school year, it must be received no later than April 1st for current students and before September 1 for new to district enrollees.
2. After the acceleration request has been submitted, the Acceleration Specialist gathers existing student data to determine if the student's scores meet the initial pre-screening requirements.
3. If the initial data does not meet the initial pre-screening requirements, the process ceases and the family will be notified. If the data supports continuation of the request, district personnel will administer appropriate assessments which are included on the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS), which include a collection of parent information and perspective. Please refer to the whole grade acceleration procedures and criteria flow chart for specific guidelines.

4. Following testing and data collecting, the site team will meet to discuss the results, keeping in mind research regarding critical items and criteria for successful grade acceleration as outlined in the assessment. Criteria for grade acceleration may include:
 - Student scores consistently are 95% or higher on curriculum-based assessments.
 - Student achievement skill of approximately two years above grade level in core subject areas as measured by local and/or state assessments.
 - A full-scale ability score of 130 +/- the standard error of measurement. ○ Information from the IAS.
 - 90% or above on grade level mastery assessments.

5. The site team will make one or more of the following recommendations:
 - No Change: The students will continue in regular programs with no changes.
 - Enrichment. The students will receive curriculum-based services or extensions in one or more subjects to be determined by classroom teacher and gifted education/differentiation specialist.
 - Acceleration. The student will accelerate in a specific subject.
 - Acceleration. The student will accelerate one grade level.

6. If acceleration is recommended, an Acceleration Plan will be written that includes class placement, standardized assessments, and transitions. The acceleration plan should address minor gaps that may occur with the transition. Accelerated students should be expected to achieve at a performance level comparable with their performance at their previous grade.
 - Whole Grade Assessment: A whole-grade accelerated student is required to take all standardized assessments for the grade in which they enroll.
 - Transition Period: The length of the transition period will be determined by the site team, up to a length of six weeks. At the end of the transition period, the specialist, teacher, and/or counselor will inform the site team of student transition progress that includes information from the classroom teacher, parent, and student in the areas of academic and social emotional adjustment. The site team will decide whether the transition period was successful and should be deemed permanent or whether the team should reconvene to revise the plan to better meet the student's needs.

7. If acceleration is not recommended the following will be considered.
 - Recommendations for the current grade level will be developed as necessary.
 - Classroom teacher and acceleration specialist will monitor student progress.

8. Parents may appeal the committee's decision by writing a letter of request for further consideration to the superintendent or designee. If the need for further consideration is determined, the site Team will be reconvened and provided any additional information.

Subject Acceleration Procedure (K-4)

1. The acceleration referral is initiated by the parent/guardian or district staff member based on the student's current academic performance using the district's referral form (Acceleration Request form). This form is automatically sent to the Acceleration Specialist who will forward it onto the building principal and school psychologist. Written approval is obtained from the parent/guardian for an assessment process to begin regarding potential acceleration by completing and signing the Acceleration Request Form. The process may be initiated at any time. However, in order for a request to pertain to the following academic school year, it must be received no later than April 1st for current students and before September 1st for new to district enrollees.
2. After the acceleration specialist has received the acceleration request form, the acceleration specialist will gather existing student data to determine if the student scores meet initial pre-screening requirements. Please refer to the acceleration procedures and criteria flow chart for specific information. If the initial data does not meet the pre-screening requirements, the process ceases and the family will be notified. If the data supports continuation of the request, the student wishing to accelerate will be asked to take a grade level mastery assessment. District personnel (acceleration specialist or content specialist) will administer appropriate assessments which are included on the acceleration procedures and criteria flow chart.

3. **Subjects Eligible for Acceleration:** English Language Arts and Math.

For students who have had an exceptional learning experience outside of ISD709, please refer to policy 620, credit for learning, for additional opportunities.

4. Following testing, the site team will meet to review the results. Criteria for single subject acceleration may include:
 - a. Student scores consistently are 95% or higher on curriculum based assessments.
 - b. Student achievement skills of consistently two years above grade level in content areas as measured by local and/or state assessments.
 - c. Recommended by current teacher.
 - d. 90% of above on grade level mastery assessments

5. The site team will make one or more of the following recommendations:

- a. No Change: The student will continue in the regular class with no changes.
- b. Enrichment: The student will continue in the regular class with further opportunities for curriculum compacting and/or extension/enrichment.
- c. Placement: The student will be placed in the appropriate course.
- d. Acceleration: The student will accelerate in a specific subject.

6. If acceleration is recommended, the site based team will create a plan including placement and timing of transitions. Accelerated students should be expected to achieve at a performance level comparable with their performance at their previous grade.
 - a. Assessment:
A subject-accelerated student is required to take all standardized assessments for the grade in which they are enrolled rather than an individual subject

placement. (For example, a 6th grade student that has been subject accelerated in ELA to grade 7 would still take the 6th grade reading standardized assessment).

b. Transition Period:

The length of the transition period will be determined by the site team, up to a length of six weeks. At the end of the transition period, the specialist, teacher, and counselor will inform the Acceleration Team of student transition progress that includes information from the classroom teacher, parent and student in the areas of academic and social emotional adjustment. The site Team will decide whether the transition period was successful and should be deemed permanent or whether the team should reconvene to revise the plan to better meet the student's needs.

c. Transportation:

If single subject acceleration is recommended, families must sign an acknowledgement form indicating they understand that at both 5th grade and 8th grade, accelerated courses are taught on a virtual platform. Students may not be transported to another school to attend in person instruction.

7. Parents may appeal the committee's decision by writing a letter of request for further consideration to the superintendent or designee. If the need for further consideration is determined, the site Team will be reconvened and provided any additional information.

Subject Acceleration Procedure (5-12)

Note for Credit Bearing Courses: The goal of acceleration is appropriate placement. If a student accelerates beyond a course required for graduation, that graduation requirement will be considered met. The student will receive credit for the course, a grade of "P" and no GPA points. A student may attempt to accelerate beyond a course only once. Students who choose subject acceleration are then fully enrolled in the next course and expected to meet expectations. The grade impacts the GPA. In high school, there are many different ways for students to be challenged in specific subjects. Enriching and accelerated courses include honors, AP, CITS, and CTE. PSEO is also available for students who meet guidelines. We encourage you to explore these options for your high school age student. For more information, please visit <https://www.isd709.org/departments/curriculum-and-instruction/index>

1. The acceleration referral is initiated by the parent/guardian, or district staff member based on the student's current academic performance using the district's referral form (Acceleration Request form). This form is automatically sent to the Acceleration Specialist who will forward it onto the building principal and school counselor. Written approval is obtained from the parent/guardian for an assessment process to begin regarding potential acceleration by completing and signing the Acceleration Request Form. The process may be initiated at any time. However, in order for a request to pertain to the following academic school year, it must be received no later than April 1st for current students and before September 1st for new to district enrollees.
2. After the acceleration specialist has received the acceleration request form, the acceleration specialist will gather existing student data to determine if the student scores meet initial pre-screening requirements. Please refer to the acceleration procedures and criteria flow chart for specific information. If the initial data does not meet the pre-screening requirements, the process ceases and the family will be notified. If the data supports continuation of the request, the student wishing to accelerate will be asked to take a course standards assessment. District personnel

(acceleration specialist or content specialist) will administer appropriate assessments which are included on the acceleration procedures and criteria flow chart.

3. Subjects Eligible for Acceleration. The following subjects are eligible for acceleration consideration. Placement is dependent upon schedule and availability and class size.
 - a. English Language Arts (must be in English)
 - b. Math
 - c. World Language (must be in target language)

For students who have had an exceptional learning experience outside of ISD709, please refer to policy 620, credit for learning, for additional opportunities.

4. Following testing, the site team will meet to review the results. Criteria for single subject acceleration may include:
 - a. Student scores consistently are 95% or higher on curriculum based assessments.
 - b. Student achievement skills of consistently two years above grade level in content areas as measured by local and/or state assessments.
 - c. Course standards assessment results
5. The site team will make one or more of the following recommendations:
 - a. No Change: The student will continue in the regular class with no changes.
 - b. Enrichment: The student will continue in the regular class with further opportunities for curriculum compacting and/or extension/enrichment.
 - c. Placement: The student will be placed in the appropriate course.
 - d. Acceleration: The student will accelerate in a specific subject.
6. If a middle school acceleration is recommended, the site based acceleration team will create a plan including placement and timing of transitions. If a high school acceleration is recommended, the site based acceleration team will work with counselors to plan for a new pathway to graduation. Accelerated students should be expected to achieve at a performance level comparable with their performance at their previous grade.
 - a. Assessment:

A subject-accelerated student is required to take all standardized assessments for the grade in which they are enrolled rather than an individual subject placement. (For example, a 6th grade student that has been subject accelerated in ELA to grade 7 would still take the 6th grade reading standardized assessment).
 - b. Transition Period:

The length of the transition period for a middle school student will be determined by the site team, up to a length of six weeks. At the end of the transition period, the specialist, teacher, and counselor will inform the site team of student transition progress that includes information from the classroom teacher, parent and student in the areas of academic and social emotional adjustment. The site team will decide whether the transition period was successful and should be deemed permanent or whether the team should reconvene to revise the plan to better meet the student's needs.
 - c. Transportation:

If single subject acceleration is recommended, families must sign an acknowledgement form indicating they understand that at both 5th grade and 8th grade, accelerated courses are taught on a virtual platform. Students may not be transported to another school to attend in person instruction.

7. Parents may appeal the committee's decision by writing a letter of request for further consideration to the superintendent or designee. If the need for further consideration is determined, the site Team will be reconvened and provided any additional information.

Elementary Retention:

1. Students who do not achieve at a level deemed acceptable by local and state standards may be retained at their current grade level. Efforts will be made to alter the student's program to better suit each student's needs.
2. Retention will be considered when professional staff, in cooperation with the parents, have determined that it is in the best interest of the student. Many factors will be considered prior to making such a decision. Some of the factors to be included are scholastic ability and achievement, physical development, maturity, cultural norms, emotional factors, as well as attendance and age. It is also recommended that the Light Retention Scale be utilized as another tool to assist in the decision. Retention shall not be based on a single factor.
3. Conferences/discussions between school personnel and parents concerning retention should be initiated by the winter conferences and earlier if the situation warrants it.
4. Retention is a decision that must be made between school personnel and the parent (guardian). If school personnel and parents (guardian) disagree over the issue of promotion and/or retention, a conciliation meeting will be held in an attempt to resolve the differences. The Director of Curriculum or designee will conduct the conciliation meeting as soon as possible after it is obvious that the school and parents (guardians) cannot agree. The school of the parent (guardian) may initiate the conciliation meeting by contacting the Director of Curriculum or designee.

Early Admission to Kindergarten Testing Criteria: Deadline April 1

1. Your child must score at or above the 90th percentile on the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Third Edition. Performance at or above the 90th percentile is a generally identified and agreed upon marker designating high ability in a given area.
2. Your child must demonstrate the ability to read 100 words from a list provided; as well as read fluently and comprehend a story appropriate for mid-level kindergarten. He/She must also achieve 80% accuracy on a letter identification sound-symbol relationship measure.
3. There must be evidence that your child has successfully completed two years in preschool. This addresses the area of social development. Your child's preschool teacher will be asked to complete the ABAS-II (Adaptive Behavior Assessment System) rating form.

Adopted:
Revised:

Acceleration Request Form
(Please submit to the student's principal)

Student Information

Student's Name:

Date of Birth:

School:

Current Grade:

Parent/Guardian Information

Name of person requesting this acceleration:

Relationship to student:

Phone and/or Email:

Acceleration Request

Type of Acceleration:

- Single Subject (K-12) Please indicate the subject/course you are wishing to accelerate out of.

- Whole Grade (K-4)

Name of teacher for current grade or course:

Please state rationale for this request including any interventions that have already been implemented to meet the student's advanced academic needs:

Please note, this form will initiate the process of collecting preliminary information about the student. It does not mean acceleration will necessarily occur.

I have read the procedures for acceleration and understand the process that will be followed to determine if acceleration is appropriate for this student. I grant permission for the necessary assessments needed to determine if acceleration is appropriate. This may include a formal measure of intellectual functioning, formal measure of academic skills, etc.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date