



JSD #117 Accelerated Plan

Our district mission is to prepare students for successful post-secondary lives through both academic and social maturity.

Introduction

The Accelerated Placement Act expands services to all students, not only those identified as gifted and talented by local policy, who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. The Act requires the development of local policy to identify such students through fair and equitable decision-making and multiple measure assessment processes. The Act also specifies that students must be automatically enrolled in the next most rigorous level of advanced course work if the student meets or exceeds state standards in English language arts, mathematics, or science on a state assessment. Parents have the right to opt for their child to enroll in a different advanced coursework that better aligns with the student's postsecondary education or career goals.

The Jacksonville School District Accelerated Placement Plan provides support for students to advance through whole grade acceleration or single-subject acceleration. Through this plan, JSD117 has developed systems to identify advanced learners and meet their learning needs, as well as, action steps necessary to support the student.

Purpose

Children may be ready for advancement in one or two areas of development throughout their schooling. However, full grade acceleration at a young age may not be appropriate. Early access is intended to support students who are evaluated to be exceptional in aptitude, academics, school readiness, and motivation. Early access is a local decision of the administrative team.

Determination

JSD117 will work collaboratively with parents and educators for evaluation referrals.

Consideration: Is acceleration the best choice for my child?

The standards for early entrance and/or acceleration are high to ensure that students are not frustrated by their advanced placement. Although a capable child needs to be challenged, those challenges should be closely aligned with his/her social and emotional development. Children are emotionally vulnerable and may become stressed and anxious when adult expectations for their performance exceed their developmental capabilities. Additionally, aspects of future social implications due to acceleration should be considered. (i.e. high school social and post-secondary situations)

Kindergarten Timeline

- Applications for early access are due by April 1 for the next school year.
- Determinations shall be made by an educational team after considering all available data.
- A student shall be age 4 by October 1 for Kindergarten and age 5 by October 1 for First Grade.

Evaluation

- Students will be tested using local assessments to determine eligibility for advanced placement.
- Students will be screened with the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III.
- Information about the performance of the child that provides evidence of a need for early access evaluation such as readiness factors and/or portfolios.

3rd-12th Grade Timeline

- Preliminary IAR, PREACT, and ACT data is released at the beginning of the summer
- 3-8th grade students performing in the exceeding level are eligible for enrichment opportunities
- 9-12th grade students will be automatically enrolled in the next most rigorous course

Evaluation

- Students performing in the exceeding level are eligible for enrichment opportunities.
- Local assessments and grades will be used to provide additional information.

Decision Making

A team of educators will evaluate student performance and determine if the child is a candidate for next level acceleration. A student may score at the 97th percentile or above but not have data that supports school readiness. Test scores alone will not determine early access or subject level acceleration. The team will analyze multiple criteria from a body of evidence resulting in a student profile of strengths and interests. The decision whether or not a student qualifies is up to the discretion of the educational team.

Programming

Grades 4-5: Students may participate in targeted enrichment sessions with an enrichment teacher to deepen and extend their learning with grade level content.

Grades 6-8: Students will be enrolled in the advanced section of ELA or Math to support higher levels of learning.

Grades 9-12: Students will be enrolled in the next most rigorous coursework.

Jacksonville School District #117

Application for Consideration for Early Entrance into Kindergarten

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please write a short rationale explaining why you feel your student would benefit from early entrance into Kindergarten.
