

Instruction

Accelerated Placement Program 1

The District provides an Accelerated Placement Program (APP). The APP advances the District's goal of providing educational programs with opportunities for each student to develop to his or her maximum potential.² The APP provides an educational setting with curriculum options usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student participating in the APP.³ APP options include, but may not be limited to: (a) accelerating a student in a single subject; (b) other grade-level acceleration; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.⁴ Participation in the APP is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. It is not limited to students who have been identified as gifted and talented.⁵ Eligibility to participate in the District's APP shall not be conditioned upon the protected classifications identified in School Board policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, or any factor other than the student's identification as an accelerated learner.⁶

The Superintendent or designee shall implement an APP that includes:

1. Decision-making processes that are fair, equitable, and involve multiple individuals, e.g. District administrators, teachers, and school support personnel, and a student's parent(s)/guardian(s);⁷
2. Notification processes that notify a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of a decision affecting a student's participation in the APP; and⁸
3. Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.⁹

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify the community, parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and school personnel about the APP, the process for referring a student for possible evaluation for

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¹ State law requires this subject matter be covered by policy and controls its content. 105 ILCS 5/14A, amended by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18 (the Accelerated Placement Act (APA)).

² Optional. Ensure this statement matches the board's current educational philosophy and objectives. See sample policy 6:10, *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*.

³ 105 ILCS 5/14A-17, added by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18.

⁴ Id. For high school districts, delete “; and (c) early entrance to kindergarten or first grade” and insert the word “and” between (a) and (b).

Attorneys disagree whether the APA conflicts with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 (*School year – School age.*). The APA requires accelerated placement to include early entrance to kindergarten and early entrance to first grade. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 *permits* districts to offer early entrance to kindergarten or first grade “based upon an assessment of the student's readiness to attend school.” 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12 also states that students may enter first grade early when they: (1) are assessed for readiness; (2) have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through kindergarten; (3) were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher; and (4) will attain the age of 6 years on or before December 31. Id. See sample policy 7:50, *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*. **Consult the board attorney for guidance.**

⁵ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(1), added by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18.

⁶ 105 ILCS 5/14A-25, amended by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18.

⁷ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(2), added by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18, requires that the accelerated placement policy include “a fair and equitable decision-making process that involves multiple persons and includes a student's parents or guardians” but does not specify what individuals are to be involved or limit those individuals to district employees. Amend this listing to align with the local board's preference.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(3), added by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(a)(4), added by P.A. 100-421, eff. 7-1-18.

accelerated placement, and the methods used to determine whether a student is eligible for accelerated placement.¹⁰ Notification may: (a) include varied communication methods, such as student handbooks and District or school websites; and (b) be provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.¹¹

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.

CROSS REF.: 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

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¹⁰ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A-32(b)(1) permits, but does not require “procedures for annually informing the community at-large, including parents or guardians, about the accelerated placement program and the methods used for the identification of children eligible for accelerated placement.”

¹¹ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/14A does not require this but it is a recommended best practice and aligns with sample policy 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.