

NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY
MANUAL OF POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Policy NP 303
WHOLE GRADE ACCELERATION

I. PURPOSE

Nova Classical Academy's mission is to provide all students with a rigorous, rich, and challenging education. Some students with exceptionally advanced abilities may require placement beyond their traditionally scheduled grade level. Nova Classical Academy will permit qualifying students to advance in their enrollment by a whole grade. The purpose of this policy is to furnish criteria for whole grade acceleration.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

All of the following criteria must be met before whole grade acceleration will be considered:

1) There must be an opening in the grade to which the child is being accelerated. If whole grade acceleration is being done in the middle of a school year for an existing student of Nova Classical Academy, there must be an opening in the grade to which the child is being accelerated. If whole grade acceleration is to be effective at the start of the next school year and is under consideration prior to the admission lottery, existing students of Nova Classical Academy who are being accelerated will be enrolled in the new grade level prior to new applicants for that grade level under the admission lottery. Students who are applying to Nova Classical Academy and requesting whole grade acceleration may only enter the lottery for one grade level. Students will not be afforded multiple chances for admission by applying at their current grade level and additionally under whole grade acceleration.

2) In order to assess appropriate placement for a student seeking to attend a grade, Nova Classical Academy asks any child applying for whole grade acceleration to undergo a comprehensive psychological, developmental, and academic evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or relevant school officials responsible for academic testing. The school may request to see results for a variety of assessments. The child must achieve a measured score in the superior range on a nationally-normed standardized intellectual and/or academic assessment test, such as, but not limited to:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children,
- Stanford-Binet Intellectual Assessment Scale (5th Edition),
- Stanford-Binet, Form L-M,
- Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales,
- Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (2nd Edition),
- Differential Ability Scales

- MCA-III or other standardized academic tests including Nova Classical's current progress-monitoring assessments like Fastbridge

3) The child must be recommended for whole grade acceleration by the psychologist and/or school official responsible for testing. The parent/guardian is solely responsible for the cost of any evaluations. This requirement may be waived upon mutual agreement of the parents and administration of Nova Classical Academy.

4) The child should be physically, developmentally, socially, emotionally, and educationally capable of the demands and activities of the school day in the higher grade. Parents may provide an optional physician certification to support the appeal for whole grade acceleration.

5) The child may be asked to meet with one or more of the teachers in the higher grade, as well as the teacher of the grade being skipped, in order to discuss the student's skills and readiness. If the child does end up accelerating a grade, they he or she may be asked required by the administration to do extra work outside of school to supplement any material the student may miss due to the acceleration. Nova Classical will share resources in support of this work. The work becomes the responsibility of the parents and child, as agreed upon by the parties involved.

III. PLACEMENT DECISIONS

Decisions for consideration for whole grade acceleration will be made by the school administration with input from the parties listed above. The decision of the administration is final. Note: All decisions for whole grade acceleration are provisional (i.e., on a trial basis). If it is later determined by the faculty and the administration that the whole grade acceleration is not resulting in a successful outcome, grade placement at Nova Classical Academy may need to be reconsidered.

Whole grade acceleration does not exempt at student from meeting high school graduation requirements.

Parents/Guardians will be required to sign an agreement to the above terms at the time they apply for whole grade acceleration.

IV. NEW ADMISSIONS

The above criteria apply to current Nova Classical students. New students who are applying to Nova Classical must complete items II.2 through II.5 a minimum of one week before the application deadline or their application for an accelerated grade will not be accepted. Parents would then need to complete an on-time application for the student's current grade to be included in the lottery.

As per Nova Classical's application procedures, no matter which grade the student is applying to, the application must be completed by the yearly deadline

to be considered on-time and be included in the lottery. A late submission means the student will be placed at the bottom of the appropriate wait list.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Students and Services)

Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 (School Board Powers; Enrollment)

Cross References: NP 301 (Application and Enrollment)

NP 302 (Early Admission to Kindergarten)

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