



The Talented and Gifted (TAG) program is currently in the process of a second program review, this time as a part of Pleasantdale's new curriculum review process that was implemented during the 2018-2019 school year. The first program review took place in 2016, when updates and revisions were made to course offerings in 4th-8th grade math and ELA, universal screening measures, and placement criteria. The current review came about as a result of a new accelerated placement law that went into effect in July of 2018. This new law required us to make some updates to our existing TAG program, placing the TAG program back on the curriculum review process during 2018-2019 school year. In addition to this new law making it necessary to review the TAG program again, we have also implemented a new assessment system (MAP), new math resources (Bridges in K-5 and Big Ideas/CMP3 in 6-8), and writers workshop curricula in ELA. These changes also made it necessary to review aspects of our TAG program.

Board Policy 6:135 (Accelerated Placement)

This policy states that the district will provide acceleration options that include early entrance into kindergarten and first grade, single subject acceleration, and grade level acceleration.

The process must include:

- 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);
- Notification processes that notify a student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of a decision affecting a student's participation in an accelerated placement;
- Assessment processes that include multiple valid, reliable indicators.

TAG Program Review

A summary of the work that has been completed so far in each phase of the curriculum review process is outlined below.

Phase 1: Convene and Train a Subject Area Team

During the 2017-2018 school year, a TAG team was formed that included administrators, gifted teachers, and general education teachers from both buildings. The team attended three trainings through the Northwestern Center for Talent Development (CTD) on program models, acceleration, best practices and standards of gifted education, and differentiation. In addition, Dr. Ban and Mrs. Merchant attended an additional workshop in October of 2018 on implementing the Accelerated Placement Act through the Illinois Association of Gifted Children (IAGC). The team also commissioned a document review through Northwestern CTD to analyze our current TAG program. Upon completion of the document review in June of 2018, TAG team members reviewed and prioritized the recommendations from Northwestern CTD.

Phase 2: Identify Needs and Timeline

Phase 3: Evaluate/Select Resources and Professional Development

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, we created a timeline using the prioritized recommendations from the TAG team to work on the updates and revisions necessary to comply with the accelerated placement act and address the assessment and curricular changes we've made over the past few years.

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Work completed in 2018-2019:

- New course descriptions for ELA and Math classes, aligned to current ELA and math curricula.
- A process for identifying students for the 4th grade accelerated math course.
- Procedures and supporting documents for early entry into kindergarten, first grade, single subject and whole grade acceleration: [Accelerated Placement Process Checklist](#).
- Posting of the [accelerated placement process](#) and [Early Entry Request Form](#) on our website.

Work to be completed in 2019-2020:

- Finalize placement procedures that utilize multiple measures that include MAP, CogAT, district writing assessment, and course grades.
- Finalize and post updated TAG document and course descriptions.
- Follow updated placement procedures to place students in courses for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Professional development in differentiating instruction to include enrichment/acceleration.

Dr. Ban will go over these updates in more detail as part of the annual curriculum review process update at the September Board of Education meeting.