

INSTRUCTION

Accelerated Placement Program

Definitions

- a. "Accelerated placement" is the placement of a student at the instructional level that best matches that student's needs by allowing access to a curriculum that is usually reserved for children who are older or in higher grades than the student. Accelerated placement options must include, but need not be limited to, early entrance to kindergarten and first grade, individual subject acceleration, and whole grade acceleration. Accelerated placement is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. Eligibility for accelerated placement shall be open to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, English language proficiency, or socioeconomic status.
- b. "Early entrance to kindergarten" is the admission of a student to kindergarten who will not yet be five years old by September 1 of that school year but will be five years old by December 1 of that school year.
- c. "Early entrance to first grade" is the admission of a student to first grade who will not yet be six years old by September 1 of that school year but will be six years old by December 1 of that school year. Students who are younger than six upon starting first grade but who were admitted early to kindergarten do not need to be reevaluated prior to admission to first grade.
- d. "Whole grade acceleration" is the practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level than is typical given the student's age on a full-time basis for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.
- e. "Individual subject acceleration" is the practice of assigning a student to specific content at a higher instructional level than is typical given the student's grade for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one or more subject areas.

Publication of Policy and Referral Forms

Copies of this policy and referral forms for evaluation for possible early entrance to kindergarten or first grade, whole grade acceleration, and individual subject acceleration, shall be made available to district staff and parents at each school building and shall be published on the school district website.

Referral

Any student residing in the district may be referred by a teacher, administrator, licensed education professional, or a parent or legal guardian of the student for evaluation for possible accelerated placement. A student may refer himself or herself through a district staff member who has knowledge of the referred student's abilities. In the case of early entrance, a preschool educator, pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child may refer the student.

Referrals by non-District employees must be submitted by April 1 of the year prior to the proposed early admission or acceleration.

Evaluation

A fair and equitable decision-making process involving multiple persons including the parent or guardian will be utilized to determine acceleration or early entrance. The assessment will include multiple valid and reliable indicators. Parents or guardians of a student will be informed of the evaluation results and recommendation.

Accelerated Placement Plan

A written plan will be created for students selected for acceleration and provided to the students' parent or guardian.

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)

ADOPTED: June 19, 2018