

Instruction

Children Eligible for Accelerated Placement

The Board of Education believes that all students across the achievement spectrum should be challenged and supported to develop their potential. For some students needing a higher level of instruction, this can be achieved by affording them access to curricula and learning environments more commonly provided to older students.

Acceleration 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 not limited to those students who have been identified as gifted and talented; but rather, it is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement. Eligibility for accelerated placement shall also be open to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, sexual identification, disability, English language proficiency, or socioeconomic status.

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.

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 and who has not completed kindergarten. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Written Parental Consent: The Principal of the referred student's school shall obtain written permission from the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement.

Evaluation Process: A fair and equitable decision-making process that involves a diverse evaluation team of multiple persons must be utilized. A parent or legal guardian of the student shall be invited to

participate in the evaluation process. The evaluation process shall include multiple valid and reliable indicators.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that accelerated students participate in appropriate state assessments based on guidance from the State Board of Education. Furthermore, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that data regarding accelerated placement is collected and reported in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/14A.

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:90 (Kindergarten), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:145 (Migrant Students), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 6:160 (Limited English Proficient Students), 6:200 (Instructional Arrangements), 6:210 (Instructional Materials), 6:260 (Complaints about Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 6:280 (Grading and Promotion), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)

ADMIN PROC.: 6:135-AP

ADOPTED: