

## **Manhattan School District 114**

### **Acceleration Procedures**

Manhattan School District 114 recognizes the need for academic interventions for all students. Subject area acceleration and whole grade acceleration is a curriculum intervention intended for academically talented students. It is not limited to those who have been identified as gifted and talented.

Subject area acceleration: A student may move to an advanced grade level in one or more core academic subjects. For example, a third grade student may attend a fourth grade math class. This is recommended for students in grades 2 and up, if the grade level program options are not meeting the child's needs.

Whole grade acceleration: A student may proceed to an advanced grade level in all subject areas.

### **Early Admittance to Kindergarten**

Manhattan School District 114 has specific criteria and procedures for considering parent requests for early entrance. The decision for a child to enter school early can have a profound effect on his or her academic and social performance for the remainder of the child's school career.

A written request must be made to the Building Principal before May 1st. To be considered for early admittance to kindergarten the student must meet the following criteria:

- Score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (kindergarten winter norms) on AIMSweb TEL (Tests of Early Literacy) including Letter Naming Fluency, Letter Sound Fluency, Phoneme Segmentation Fluency, and Nonsense Word Fluency.
- Math Readiness Assessment - meet or exceed the first trimester expectations for counting, number recognition, comparing numbers, comparing quantities, and counting objects.
- Able to read a DRA level 3 passage at the independent or instructional level.

The above assessments will be administered prior to the start of the school year by the early entrance team which may include the Building Principal, School Psychologist, Social Worker and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction or Building Principal will contact the parents with the grade level recommendation within 7 days of the completion of the screening.

As part of the transition and support plan, children who are accepted for early entrance will be enrolled on a probationary basis. The school staff will assess each child's initial adjustment to school during the first twenty school days. If a child's adjustment is not satisfactory, the Building Principal will request that the child enroll when the child meets the state's enrollment age requirement for the appropriate grade level. If it is determined that the child's adjustment is satisfactory, the child may continue enrollment in the early entrance program.

### **Early Admittance to First Grade**

A written request must be made to the Building Principal by May 1st. To be considered for early admittance to first grade the student must meet the following criteria:

- Attended a full year of Kindergarten outside of Manhattan School District 114.
- Score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (1st grade winter norms) on AIMSweb TEL (Tests of Early Literacy) including Phoneme Segmentation Fluency and Nonsense Word Fluency.
- Score in the 50th percentile (1st grade winter norms - 30 WPM) on AIMSweb R-CBM.
- Able to read a level 10 passage at the independent or instructional level using the DRA system.
- Correctly answers 80% of math problems on the 1st grade math placement test.

As part of the transition and support plan, children who are accepted for early entrance will be enrolled on a probationary basis. The school staff will assess each child's initial adjustment to school during the first twenty school days. If a child's adjustment is not satisfactory, the Building Principal will request that the child enroll when the child meets the state's enrollment age requirement for the appropriate grade level. If it is determined that the child's adjustment is satisfactory, the child may continue enrollment in the early entrance program.

### **Students Enrolled in Grades 1-7**

A teacher, an administrator or a parent may initiate the request for consideration by completing the ***Request for Acceleration Application***.

To be considered for acceleration the student must demonstrate:

- Test scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for reading **and** mathematics on the STAR assessments throughout one academic year (minimum of three test scores).
- State assessment scores - an exceeds expectations performance level in ELA and math for the most recently reported academic year, or for partial acceleration an exceeds expectations performance level in the subject area being considered for acceleration.
- Once the *Request for Acceleration Application* is received, the Building Principal will contact the parents or guardians to explain the process and procedures.
- The Iowa Acceleration Guide will be used to collect more information.
- When the results have been collected, a meeting with will be scheduled with the parents or guardians to discuss the results and recommendation.
- If acceleration is recommended, a transition plan will be developed.
- If acceleration is not recommended the parents or guardians may appeal to the Board of Education.

Grade level acceleration works best at the start of an academic year and not when it is a transitional year before a move to another building.

### **Other Scenarios**

For students that have completed a grade level in another country or private school earlier than the recommended age of our students, a screening test will be administered. This process could take 2-3 days to schedule, administer and analyze results. Students must score at the 50th percentile for the grade level they are requesting in both ELA and Math to consider a grade level placement. Manhattan School District 114 makes grade level recommendations in the best interest of students based on academic performance.

# **Request for Acceleration Application**

Submit to the Building Principal - evaluation for grades 1-7 acceleration may take up to 30 days

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for considering acceleration

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of referring individual \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to child \_\_\_\_\_

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## **School Use**

**Date received** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Consent to administer screening for acceleration**

(obtain after preliminary review of data for acceleration)

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_