

## ACCELERATION

Acceleration may be considered when a student demonstrates evidence of superior ability in one or more content areas. Teachers, family, self, or others may identify superior ability. Gifted education services must include curricular and instructional opportunities directed to the unique needs of the gifted student. Programming options may vary in design, degree, and duration to match the identified student's needs as described in the Acceleration Procedure Flowchart.

### Acceleration Procedure Flowchart

**Step 1: Acceleration is considered when a student has demonstrated superior ability in one or more content areas.**

**Step 2: Initiate the PACE Process. Preparation includes review of all student records, past and present. The PACE Team may include teachers, family, student (if applicable), and others. The purpose of the PACE meeting is to:**

- **Review** all data regarding the student including records, all differentiation strategies, and prior optional programs
- **Collaborate**, to develop all possible ideas for continuing student progress at optimal rate using the above data;
- **Plan** for the student; and
- **Recommend** options to address student needs

**Yes**

Acceleration is recommended in a specific content area, whole grade, or other.

**No**

Acceleration is not recommended at this time, however, classroom differentiation and small group programming beyond the classroom may be recommended. This case is to be reviewed per PACE recommendation.

#### Step 3: Obtain Written Permission

Obtain written parent/guardian permission to continue acceleration procedure with a full evaluation.

**Yes**

Evaluate student using such vehicles as Iowa Acceleration Scale, IQ – Assessment & Ability Tests, Key Math (if appl), others.

**No**

Parent/guardian permission to evaluate is denied. Classroom differentiation and small group programming beyond the classroom should continue. This case is to be reviewed per PACE recommendation.

#### Step 4: Interpret All Data by Test Administrator(s) Who Report Below

### **Step 5: Reconvene PACE Team to Receive Evaluation Data and Review Plan**

The PACE Team reviews the test data to define the plan, which may include:

- An implementation plan
- A transition plan
- A monitoring plan
- A review plan

The PACE Team reaches consensus regarding programming recommendations. Any accommodation must be made within 45 days for program modification or 90 days for whole grade acceleration. (Timelines may be extended due to extenuating circumstances.)

#### **In the event of disagreement by any party**

- A written appeal may be made by any member to the District Administrator within 30 school days of PACE Team's recommendation. After consultation with school personnel, the District Administrator will respond to the appeal within 10 school days.
- An additional appeal may advance to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

### **Definition of Terms**

**ACCELERATION:** advancement to the next grade's curriculum by a student in one or more academic content areas or by whole grade to all areas

**ENRICHMENT:** enriching the current grade's curriculum for an able student in one or more of the following ways:

1. **Differentiation:** revising a current lesson to address the ability and/or interest of an individual student with superior ability
2. **Compacting:** offering the curriculum at a faster pace, earning the student time, which may be invested in other academic options agreed upon by teacher, student, and family
3. **Independent research:** a program, which allows a student to pursue an interest, related to a specific curricular area agreed upon by teacher, student, and family
4. **Mentorship:** a program which provides an opportunity for students to be paired with a teacher, parent, or community volunteer in an area of expertise or interest on a one-to-one basis in order to develop a student's knowledge in that area and develop a product from the experience
5. **Special group programming beyond the regular classroom.** These may include, but not be limited to:
  - Special Phy Ed project for small group who has mastered skills and has high interest in a particular item
  - Jr. Great Books groups
  - Leadership Groups
  - Mystery Box Groups
  - Special Math group
  - Honors music groups
  - Opera for the Young performers
  - Others developed across teams for special needs
  - Others
6. Other opportunities as developed by teachers, students, and families to meet students needs

**PACE (PROGRAM to ASSIST CHILDREN’S EDUCATION)**

- It is a cooperative team involving school personnel and family in a collaborative consultation format who meet to review student needs and make a recommendation for an identified student.

**Individual Service and Placement is achieved as a result of the PACE procedure (see FLOW CHART).**

- A student may be accelerated in one or more content areas or by whole grade.