



To the parent or guardians of _____,

You or your child's teacher has initiated a request for your child to be considered for grade acceleration. Attached are the Procedures for Whole Grade Acceleration and a Grade Acceleration Request Form.

Whole-grade acceleration is a curriculum intervention for capable students who show strong achievement in the classroom or exhibit potential to do advanced work. The grade acceleration procedures are designed to guide the process in determining if your child is a good candidate for this accommodation. There are four steps to the process.

The first step of the process is an initial screening. In this step, school staff will determine if there are accommodations in the classroom that can meet your child's needs. At least two strategies should be tried. These strategies may include enrichment opportunities, pre-testing curriculum, small group investigation and/or independent study. Additionally, the gifted education specialist will compile existing achievement and testing data to determine if grade acceleration should be considered.

If the process continues, a building-level Acceleration Committee will be formed to review the request for acceleration. The Acceleration Committee will also evaluate the existing data to determine if your child would qualify for further testing. Using the criteria outlined in the grade acceleration procedures, the committee will determine what additional information and/or assessments are needed to make a decision. As the gifted education specialist, I will be coordinating this process.

Once the assessments are completed, the Acceleration Committee and the parents/guardians will meet to discuss a recommendation. The criteria outlined in the grade acceleration procedures will guide the committee's decision.

If grade acceleration is recommended, a plan for the student will be developed and signed by the parent(s) and members of the Acceleration Committee. The desired outcome of grade acceleration is for a student to be more appropriately challenged while continuing to excel at his or her new grade level. Acceleration requires a partnership between the school district and families. Parents of highly gifted students should be aware that further accommodations, such as independent study, subject acceleration or out-of-school programming, may be necessary in future years. Educational plans should be re-evaluated yearly.

If grade acceleration is not recommended, plans for the current grade will be developed as needed. The classroom teacher and/or Gifted Education Specialist will continue to monitor the student's progress.

The Procedures for Whole Grade Acceleration offer more detailed information about this process. If you would like your child to be considered for grade acceleration, please submit the Grade Acceleration Request Form. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Building Gifted Specialist