



## Subject Acceleration Procedures Middle Level

### Guidelines

Middle school students may accelerate through a course (subject area) by demonstrating mastery in the course essential learnings using the criteria listed below.

### Process:

1. The student and parent will discuss a request for subject acceleration with the teacher, dean, or gifted specialist. The student will submit an application and letter to the Acceleration Committee. The preferred application deadline is April 1 for the following year.
2. The classroom teacher will try at least two strategies for meeting the student's needs and document their results.

### Criteria

The Acceleration Committee, including a teacher, student's dean, and gifted education specialist, will review each request for subject acceleration based on the following criteria:

- The student will demonstrate 85 percent mastery of essential learnings as determined by district curricular-based assessment and/or standardized test results. The assessment may include written examinations, oral examinations, portfolio, products, performance, and teacher recommendation. Materials may be provided for prior study to completing the assessments.
- In addition, when accelerating in English or Math it is recommended that the student show achievement at the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on a nationally normed achievement test in the specific subject area. Best practice research indicates that this level of achievement is a strong indicator of success in an accelerated course. Students with achievement scores at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher will be considered if there are other indicators of exceptional achievement.
- In courses other than English, students should demonstrate reading comprehension skills at the accelerated grade level. A reading MAP score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile at the accelerated grade level is needed.

The Acceleration Committee will identify the specific assessment procedure(s) necessary to demonstrate fulfillment of the above criteria.

The Acceleration Committee should also consider the traits listed below. A student should exhibit all or most of the following:

- social/emotional maturity, academic motivation and persistence;
- an intense interest in the specific academic area;
- strong independent study skills.

As a district we believe in a growth mindset as a predictor of future academic success. As a result, a student who exhibits consistent effort and intrinsic motivation in a content area but doesn't quite meet data criteria shall be considered for subject acceleration.

### Recommendation

1. Based on criteria above, the Acceleration Committee will make one of the following recommendations:
  - Subject acceleration will be recommended and student will progress to next grade level course.
  - Subject acceleration will be recommended and student will progress by means of supervised independent study.
  - No subject acceleration will be recommended, but appropriate differentiation will be planned.
2. The Acceleration Committee will notify the student, parent(s) and school personnel of its decision.
3. Parents may appeal the Committee's decision by writing a letter of request for further consideration to the building principal. The building principal will work with the Gifted Steering Committee to review this request.
4. Acceleration will be considered on a trial basis for 6 weeks.
5. Communication between school sites servicing the student is crucial. Transportation needs and scheduling issues must be considered. Transportation is the responsibility of parents.
6. Plans should be re-evaluated yearly.
  - Subject acceleration requires a partnership between the school district and families. Parents should be aware that future years might require independent study, out-of-school programming or dual enrollment options.
  - The gifted specialists will document the acceleration in the student's cumulative file.
7. The principal's signature is required.



## Subject Acceleration Application Middle Level

### **To be completed by the student**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

I request subject acceleration into the following course/level: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write a letter to the Acceleration Committee requesting acceleration. Explain how this will benefit you and how you have mastered course essential learnings (obtainable from dean, gifted specialist, or teachers). Please attach a separate sheet.*

### **To be completed by parent or guardian**

I have reviewed the Subject Acceleration Policy and the Subject Acceleration Application. I grant permission for assessments.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **To be completed by school staff**

Dean signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted Education Specialist signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of receipt of application: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Recommendation of Acceleration Committee:**

Acceleration request approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach course essential learnings, assessment procedures, results of assessment*

Acceleration request denied: \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach reasons/notes*

Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Plan for student learning:**

*Attach implementation plan including class placement or independent study plans, and any other important considerations.*