

STUDENT ACCELERATION

Accelerated learning opportunities are provided for students of the District. Acceleration is any modification of the regular instructional program that enables a student to progress more rapidly and to complete a course or program in less time or at an earlier age than is traditional. Acceleration opportunities include, but are not limited to: early entrance into kindergarten or 1st grade, subject area enrichments, independent study, correspondence courses, work study opportunities, summer school, obtaining high school credit while in middle school, obtaining college credit while in high school, and early graduation. Each of these acceleration opportunities are available to all students meeting established criteria and are implemented in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Under special circumstances a highly capable or gifted student may be so advanced that more extensive and customized programming is needed. The following options shall be considered to meet the needs of such students. In each case, parents/guardians shall be involved in determining the best approach to serve individual students.

1. Curriculum Compacting

Curriculum compacting will allow students who do not qualify for subject or grade level acceleration to participate in a modified form of acceleration within the classroom. These students demonstrate mastery of the majority of the curriculum, but have not mastered the complete curriculum. Curriculum compacting allows the student to move through the material at a faster rate than other students. Curriculum compacting may lead to subject acceleration as grade level materials are mastered.

In all cases the following shall apply:

- Students who are considered for curriculum compacting should have the potential to perform at a level one or more years above their classmates for that subject(s).
- Teachers shall not require a student participating in a compacted curriculum to do any of those portions of the curriculum that the student has already mastered.
- When the student is promoted to the next grade level he/she should continue modified programming in the curriculum from the point completed the previous year.
- Curriculum compacting will be supplemented with a variety of enrichment activities to promote the in-depth study of the curriculum and to prevent the student from “racing” through the curriculum.
- The student will be given reduced amounts of introductory activities, drill, and review. This will allow the student to move faster through the compacted curriculum and to do more enrichment activities.

2. Subject Area Acceleration

Subject area acceleration allows students who demonstrate unusually rapid progress in one or more subject areas to advance to the appropriate grade level curriculum for that subject(s) and participate in individualized enrichment projects related to that curriculum.

In all cases the following shall apply:

- Students have already been identified as talented and gifted and are participating in a differentiated curriculum in which it has become evident that grade level acceleration should be considered.
- Students at the 9-12 level will have scored a 95% or higher on the final exam(s) for the subject(s) in which advancement is being considered.
- Students at the 6-8 level will have scored two standard deviations above the norm on M.A.P. test in subject(s) in which advancement is being considered.
- Students who are considered for subject acceleration should have the potential to perform at a level two years or more beyond the normal curriculum for that subject(s).
- When a pre-high school student enrolls in a high school course, ~~he/she will receive~~ high school credit will be granted upon successful completion of the course.
- 9-12 level courses that are skipped will result in credit towards graduation.

3. Grade Level Advancement

Grade level advancement allows students who demonstrate exemplary achievement in all subject areas to advance to a higher grade level. Accelerated placement rarely exceeds two years from the student's age peers.

In all cases, students who are considered for grade level acceleration should have the potential to perform two or more years beyond their present grade placement at the K-8 level, and in all subject areas at the high school level.

Legal Ref.: Wisconsin Statutes Sections 118.001, 118.13, 118.35
Wisconsin Statutes Sections 121.02 (1)(t)
Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 8.01(2)(t)

Cross Ref.: 345.42 – Rule Guidelines for Student Acceleration
343.1 - Independent Study Program
343.2 - Student Work Study Program
343.41- Correspondence Courses
343.42 - Youth Options
345.4 - Promotion of Students
345.6 - Early Graduation
351 - Summer School
420-Rule - Guidelines for Early Admission
Gifted and Talented Program Plan

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