

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

ACCEL options provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible public school students in kindergarten through grade 12. ACCEL options may include, but are not limited to: Enriched science, technology, engineering and mathematics coursework (STEM), enrichment programs, flexible grouping, advanced academic courses, combined classes, self-paced instruction, curriculum compacting, and advanced-content instruction.

If a student is deemed eligible, the school must provide:

- Whole-grade and midyear promotions
- Subject matter acceleration
- Virtual instruction in higher grade level subjects
- Credit Acceleration as specified in s.1003.4295, F.S.

The Student Progression Plan must include information about ACCEL options, early accelerated graduation options, and dual enrollment courses included in the dual enrollment articulation agreement.

Eligibility for acceleration is determined through the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process. At a minimum, the following criteria must be considered prior to acceleration:

- Student performance on a locally-determined assessment, a statewide assessment, or a standardized assessment administered pursuant to *s.1008.22 F.S.*;
- The student's grade point average;
- The student's attendance and conduct record;
- Recommendations from one or more of the student's teachers in core-curricula courses;
- A recommendation from the school counselor; and,
- Kindergarten and first grade students must meet the age requirements set forth in *s.1003.21, Florida Statutes*.

ACCEL – Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning:

ACCEL options in elementary schools include whole-grade promotion, mid-year promotion and subject matter acceleration. The student's cumulative record shall indicate the assignment of an accelerated placement. ACCEL option requirements established by the principal, may also include participation in extracurricular activities, educational outings, field trips, interscholastic competitions, and other activities related to the ACCEL option selected.

A parent may request acceleration that would result in a student attending a different school or a virtual school. If the parent selects one of these ACCEL options and the student meets the eligibility and procedural requirements, the student must be provided the opportunity to participate in the ACCEL option. Transportation will be the responsibility of the parent.

The Multi-tiered (MTSS) System of Supports process should be used when determining whether or not a student should be accelerated. The following criteria shall be evident for whole grade, mid-year and subject matter acceleration:

- Demonstration of exceptionally high achievement in grades and daily performance in the course or at the grade level to be by-passed; such performance shall be based on assessments and independently-completed student work reflecting Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSS) and/or Florida Standards;
- K-2 students must communicate in a manner that illustrates confidence and proficiency in the content area(s) or grade level into which they will be accelerated;
- Superior/excellent grade point average in grades 3-6 or exceptionally high performance on FSA/FCAT 2.0 in reading, writing, science, and/or math for students in grades 4-6;
- Demonstration of satisfactory conduct and work habits;
- Compliance with district attendance policy;
- Recommendations from former teachers and the guidance counselor; and
- Evidence that the student will benefit more academically and emotionally from the advanced placement than from the one based on chronological age.

Typically, the school will initiate acceleration options for students. Notification of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is required prior to accelerating the student. If parents request acceleration, the principal must:

- Assess the student's eligibility;
- If eligible, determine appropriate means of acceleration;
- Initiate a performance contract executed by the student, the parent and the principal stipulating expectations for student, to include at a minimum student attendance and conduct requirements, as well as ACCEL option requirements established by the principal. These may include participation in extracurricular activities, educational outings, field trips, interscholastic competitions, and other activities related to the ACCEL option selected.

Kindergarten and first grade students must meet the age requirements set forth in *s.1003.21*, Florida Statutes. Principals must take into consideration class size requirements prior to making an accelerated placement. Additionally, it is important to inform parents that acceleration may require enrollment in virtual courses as students' progress beyond elementary level coursework.