

# **ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **ACCELERATION POLICY**

District procedure has been established for recommendations for a student to be advanced a grade level or advanced in a curricular area. This procedure is called “acceleration.” The following procedures will be followed in making decisions about acceleration for individual students if it has been determined to be in the best interest of the student’s development.

### **I. Recommendation for Acceleration**

A request for possible acceleration may be initiated by a parent, administrator, counselor, teacher, or the student himself/herself. The parent and the student must be in agreement that acceleration is a potential option before proceeding with this process. The recommendation must be in writing to the site administrator and include the rationale for the request. All requests must meet NRS 388.40 (2 and 3b) on minimum age requirements for placement in kindergarten and first grade.

### **II. Acceleration Committee**

The site administrator shall be responsible for convening the acceleration committee. If acceleration involves transition to a new school, staff from both schools will need to attend. The committee will consist of the following members:

- A. Current teacher; required
- B. One teacher from the proposed grade level; required
- C. A site level administrator; required
- D. One school psychologist; required for assessment of ability (for grade level acceleration)
- E. One counselor from the appropriate school; required
- F. Parent or Guardian; required
- G. Gifted/Talented (GT) Teacher; required for current GT students
- I. Director of Curriculum; optional

### **III. Procedure for Grade Level Acceleration**

The Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) results are to be used by the acceleration committee to discuss strengths and potential difficulties for a child being considered for acceleration through data such as test scores, school history, observed adult and peer relationships, attitudes toward learning, and other factors that have bearing on a decision to accelerate. The student who is being considered for acceleration may be given individual cognitive tests, achievement tests and rating scales, with parental permission. The best case scenario is to implement whole grade acceleration at the start of an academic year, following an assessment process that has occurred the previous spring.

- A. The site level administrator will initiate the use of the IAS for the purpose of data collection.
- B. Committee members shall review the results of the IAS. Explanation and review of the ramifications of acceleration on the student’s future academic programming and graduation status must occur.

- C. The committee will utilize this information to generate a recommendation to the site level administrator for his/her final determination of appropriate grade level placement. The principal will inform the parents and committee of his/her final decision.
- D. If parents disagree with the decision they may appeal by utilizing the appeal process. A written appeal at the first level is sent to the Director of Special Services. A second level appeal is sent to the Deputy Superintendent, with the final appeal to the Board of Trustees.

#### **IV. Procedure for Core Curriculum Area Acceleration**

- A. Upon recommendation, all available information will be collected and reviewed by the site level administrator.
- B. A common pre-assessment will be given to the student in the specific curricular area that is at least two grade levels above their current grade level. Committee members will review the results of this assessment, school and academic factors, developmental factors, interpersonal skills, and attitude and support sections of the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) for use in making a recommendation to the site administrator for his/her final approval.
- C. If curricular acceleration requires a change in school location, logistical procedures must be reviewed and agreed upon by the sending and receiving schools. Transportation may be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- D. Curriculum area acceleration in elementary grades could occur at any time the committee determines to be appropriate. For secondary students this should occur at the beginning of an academic year.
- E. Teachers must be certified in their specific subject area or have passed the Praxis exam in their specific subject area in order to issue credit for secondary courses.

#### **V. Progress Review**

If acceleration is attempted, a review of progress shall be monitored. The involved teacher has the primary responsibility of monitoring the accelerated student's progress and in reporting progress to the site level administrator and parents each nine weeks during the first year of acceleration. If at any time the student is not able to maintain the expected achievement level, the site level administrator may re-convene the committee to discuss possible options for continuation or removal from the accelerated placement. All documentation regarding the decided upon action and progress shall be placed in the student's cumulative record folder.

#### **VI. Graduation Requirements**

High school courses taken in the acceleration process may be given full credit and applied toward graduation requirements and GPA as per Elko County School District policy, I.H.F. Graduation Requirements and IHG Academic Achievement: Early Graduation.