GENERAL GUIDANCE

State law requires all school districts to develop and use a student acceleration policy. This law allows a district committee to place a student in a higher level than is typical, given the student’s age.

A district committee, which includes the child’s parents, teachers and other school professionals, may accelerate a student from one grade to a higher grade. A district committee also may accelerate a student in one or more subjects to a higher grade in those subjects, but not to a higher grade level.

The purpose of this law is to provide a student access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities. In most cases, this law does not apply to a student who is in curricular options with age peers such as ability grouping, honors courses and Advanced Placement courses.

More information on academic acceleration is available on the department’s website.

IMPACT ON THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE

Students accelerated to third grade or to third grade reading:

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee applies to students accelerated to third grade or to third grade in reading. This means:

- The student takes a reading diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the school year; and
- The student must reach the promotion score on the grade 3 English language arts test to be promoted to fourth grade. A student may be exempt from this requirement. Information on exemptions to retention is available in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual.

Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade reading:

Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade in reading take fourth grade assessments and do not participate in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.