

District Acceleration Implementation: Building on Experience

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Fall, 2011

Some Questions to Look At



- Where are your students in your curriculum? How do you know?
- How is your acceleration policy helping get your students on the right rung?

Why choose acceleration for students?

- Cost effective way to meet students needs (both gifted and high ability students)
- Research indicates acceleration is beneficial in the long-term

Types of Acceleration Reviewed Onsite

Written Acceleration Plans for:

- Subject Acceleration
- Whole Grade Acceleration
- Early Entrance to Kindergarten/First Grade
- Early Graduation

Written Acceleration Plan (WAP)

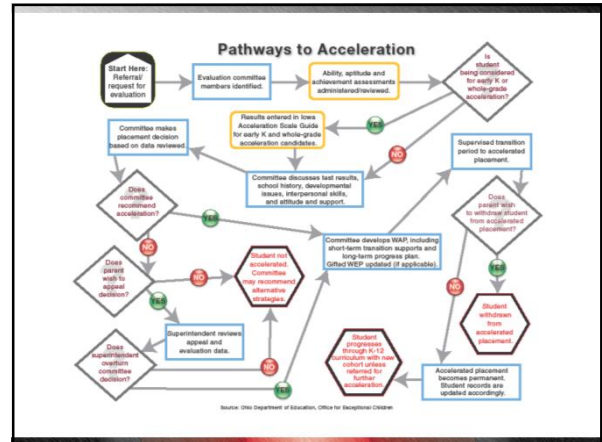
Examples on ODE Web site

What if there isn't a WAP for a type?

Provide evidence to show how the district informs parents and staff about the opportunity to accelerate students (eg., parent brochure, staff meeting agenda, district website, student handbook, board agenda approving PD, other)

The Process

Powerpoint on ODE Web site, *Pathways to Acceleration: Signposts for the Evaluation Committee*



Subject Acceleration

A variety of data:

- Ability test (formal measure of intelligence – can use a group test)
- Achievement test in single subject (nationally-normed & matches grade level student is currently in)
- Aptitude test in single subject (nationally-normed, test should be two grades above)
- Other

What tools are available to provide the team information?

Subject acceleration:

- OAA prior year
- Gifted screening assessments
- Belin-Blank Center
www.mathsolutions.com (fee required)
- Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test – nationally normed

Early Graduation

A process for high ability learners to assist with earlier than typical entry into higher education

Whole Grade Acceleration

- For Whole Grade and Early Entrance evaluation must use ODE-approved process
- Only research-based process currently approved is use of *Iowa Acceleration Scale* (3rd Edition required by May, 2012)

Meeting the Needs of Early Learners



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Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade

- Children must be 5 (or 6) by the cut-off date unless evaluated for early entrance
- Use the *Iowa Acceleration Scale (3rd Edition)*
- Test substitutions that may be used for assessing ability in very young students
- Achievement scores that may be converted to an aptitude score

USE of IAS for Early Entrance

- Used in a child-study team to about guide the discussion strengths and potential difficulties – items weighted toward academics and high ability (not gifted)
- Inform parents of “not recommended” language if cognitive abilities score is below 115

Challenges with IAS for Early Entrance

- Contact publisher for scoring concerns for students younger than 4 years, 11 months
- Provide social/emotional information to committee based on pre-K equivalents
- Example referral form on ODE website developed to aid districts that have a disproportionately high number of referrals

When are appeals likely to happen?

- If parents do not understand that early entrance is a whole-grade acceleration not a waiver for the district cut-off date
- When the cognitive abilities score falls below 115 – manual says “not recommended” but districts may not use a single “cut score”

That’s it from us. . .



any questions from you?

Resources

- *A Nation Deceived: How America Holds Back its Brightest Students* – online document
- *Iowa Acceleration Scale, 3rd Edition*

Contact Us

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