Updated 2/19/09

Acceleration Testing Policy for Subject-Accelerated Students

Note: The rules below have been established to ensure equity across districts regarding the practice of testing subject-accelerated students. Section 3324.10 of HB 66 and HB 79 charges all districts with the adoption of a district student acceleration policy. As such, the rules below apply only to students accelerated under a district acceleration policy. Typically, the students covered under the rules below are students accelerated into courses where most of their classmates are older peers.

Subject Acceleration: The practice of placing a student in a higher grade level than is typical given the student's age for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one or more subject areas.

Example:

- A third grade student performing above grade level in reading and math goes to a fourth grade teacher every morning for instruction in these subjects and returns to the third grade classroom for instruction in other subject areas.

In most cases, students placed in curricular options with age peers such as ability grouping, honors courses and AP courses are not covered under the testing rules.

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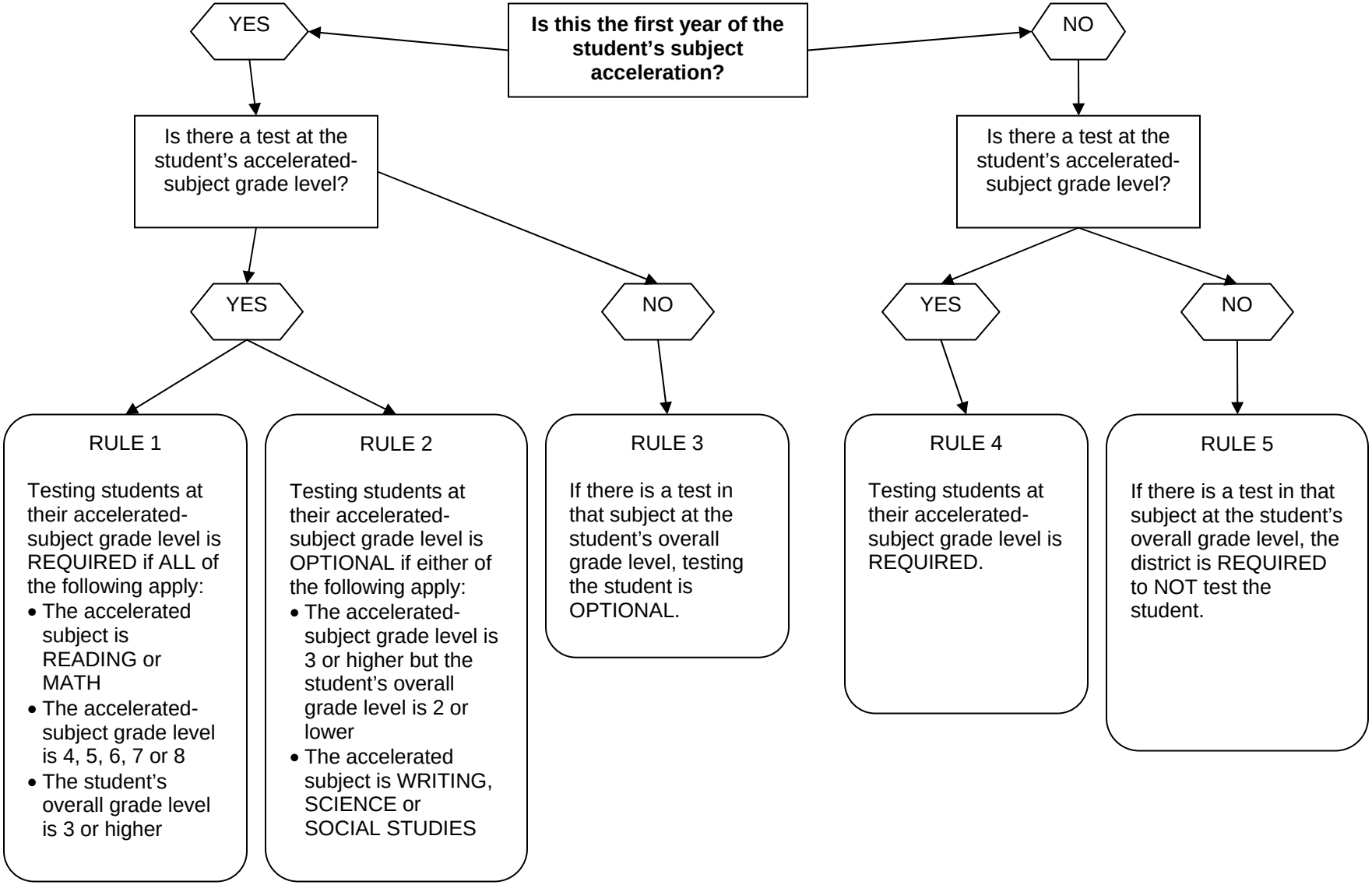
Definitions:

Accelerated-subject grade level: the grade level of the accelerated instruction.
Overall grade level: the grade level as reported in the EMIS *Grade Level Element*.
Accountability grade level: the grade level where the student's score will be counted.

Decision Flowchart for Subject-Accelerated Students



Ohio Achievement Test Accountability and Reporting Matrix for Subject-Accelerated Students

Rule #	Accelerated Placement Scenario	Testing at the accelerated-subject grade level?	What is the accountability grade level when students are tested at the accelerated-subject grade level?	EMIS Reporting Requirements (report the *Grade Level of Student at Time of Test Element* and the *Test Grade Level Element* per standard guidelines)
1	It is the first year of the student's acceleration and ALL of the following apply: • The student is in an accelerated-subject grade of 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. • The accelerated subject is READING or MATH. • The student's overall grade level is 3 or higher.	REQUIRED	Overall grade level up to two grade levels below their accelerated-subject grade level.	*Acceleration Element(s)* [subject(s) and number of years accelerated]. *Type of Accommodation Element*.
2	It is the first year of the student's acceleration and either of the following apply: • The student is in an accelerated-subject grade level of 3 or higher but their overall grade level is 2 or lower. • The student is in an accelerated subject of SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES or WRITING.	OPTIONAL	Accelerated-subject grade level.	*Acceleration Element(s)* [subject(s) and years accelerated]. *Type of Accommodation Element* IF the student is tested at the accelerated-subject grade level.
3	It is the first year of the student's acceleration. A test does not exist at the student's accelerated-subject grade level BUT a test does exist in that subject at the student's overall grade level.	Testing is OPTIONAL.	N/A	*Score Not Reported Element* IF the student is not tested.
4	It is a year OTHER THAN the first year of the student's acceleration and a test exists at the student's accelerated-subject grade level.	REQUIRED.	Accelerated-subject grade level.	*Type of Accommodation Element* IF the student is tested at the accelerated-subject grade level.
5	It is a year OTHER THAN the first year of the student's acceleration and a test does not exist at the student's accelerated-subject grade level BUT a test does exist in that subject at the student's overall grade level.	The district cannot test the student.	N/A	*Score Not Reported Element*.

Note regarding whole grade acceleration: For students who have been whole grade accelerated, their accelerated grade level, overall grade level and accountability grade level are all identical. The only exception is when it is the first year of a student's whole grade acceleration AND the grade levels and subjects outlined in Rule #1 apply, in which case the accountability grade level is the grade level the student would have been in if not whole grade accelerated and the student's score will be compared to the grade level they would have been in if not whole grade accelerated. Follow all other typical testing and reporting guidelines for the student's accelerated grade level. During the first year of a student's whole grade acceleration, report in EMIS the same value for all five *Acceleration Element(s)* [subject(s) and number of years accelerated].

1) During the first year of a student's acceleration, students with an overall grade level of 3 or higher and an accelerated-subject grade level of 4-8 (READING and MATH only) will be REQUIRED to test at their accelerated-subject grade level and their scores will be compared back to their overall-grade level up to two grade levels below their accelerated-subject grade level. Their accountability-grade level will be their overall-grade level up to two grade levels below their accelerated-subject grade level.

2) During the first year of a student's acceleration it will be OPTIONAL for the district to test at the accelerated-subject level in the following situations:

a) a student with an accelerated-subject level of 3 or higher but an overall grade level of 2 or lower

b) a student with an accelerated subject of WRITING, SCIENCE or SOCIAL STUDIES.

In these situations, if students are tested at their accelerated-subject grade level, the accountability-grade level will be the accelerated-subject grade level.

3) During the first year of a student's acceleration, for situations where no test exists at their accelerated-subject grade level, but a test does exist in that subject at their overall-grade level, it will be OPTIONAL for the district to test the student.

4) In any year OTHER THAN the first year of a student's acceleration, testing the student at their accelerated-subject grade level is REQUIRED. For students tested at their accelerated-subject grade level the accountability grade level is the accelerated-subject grade level.

5) In any year OTHER THAN the first year of a student's acceleration, for situations where no test exists at their accelerated-subject grade level, but a test does exist in that subject at their overall grade level, the district is REQUIRED to NOT test the student.

6) Districts will not allow students with an accelerated-subject level of 10 or higher but an overall-grade level of 9 or lower to take the OGT.

7) During the first year of a student's acceleration, all districts will report in EMIS the *Acceleration Element(s)* [subject(s) and number of years accelerated]. During the first year of a student's acceleration AND for any year OTHER THAN a student's acceleration, districts will report in EMIS the *Type of Accommodation Element* for OAT for ANY situation in which the student was tested at their accelerated-subject grade level. For any situation where a student is not tested because a test does not exist at their accelerated-subject level, but a test does exist in that subject at their overall-grade level, districts will report in EMIS the *Score Not Reported Element* for OAT. Districts will report in EMIS the *Grade Level of Student at Time of Test Element* and the *Test Grade Level Element* per standard reporting guidelines.

8) ODE reserves the right to REQUIRE testing of all students at their accelerated-subject grade level in all areas.

Note regarding whole grade acceleration: For students who have been whole grade accelerated, their accelerated grade level, overall grade level and accountability grade level are all identical. The only exception is when it is the first year of a student's whole grade acceleration AND the grade levels and subjects outlined in Rule #1 apply, in which case the accountability grade level is the grade level the student would have been in if not whole grade accelerated and the student's score will be compared to the grade level they would have been in if not whole grade accelerated. Follow all other typical testing and reporting guidelines for the student's accelerated grade level. During the first year of a student's whole grade acceleration, report in EMIS the same value for all five *Acceleration Element(s)* [subject(s) and number of years accelerated].

Note regarding Test Administration Procedures: Students testing at the accelerated level must be noted as such on test documents/records sent to the test vendor, either; a) in the PreID file, OR b) in the appropriate bubble on the Demographic Page, OR c) in the Record Changes System (NCS Schoolhouse). Failure to properly record students testing at the accelerated level may delay processing and reporting.

For questions regarding what students are covered under this policy, please contact the Gifted Services staff at 614-466-2650 or gifted@ode.state.oh.us.

For questions regarding report card and accountability calculations or EMIS reporting, please contact your district's EMIS coordinator.