



## **ACCELERATION POLICY AND PLAN K-12**

### **WHAT IS ACCELERATION**

Acceleration is any modification or change of the regular instructional program that enables a student to progress more rapidly and to complete a program in less time or at an earlier age than is traditional. The acceleration opportunities should include, but are not limited to :

- \*early entrance into kindergarten
- \*subject acceleration (one or more areas)
- \*grade acceleration
- \*early graduation.

### **OUR BELIEF**

*All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity, but the degree to which academic standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards will vary from student to student. Franklin City Schools believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For many advanced learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments, and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers.*

### **ELIGIBILITY**

\*All students in the district are eligible for acceleration. Gifted identification is not required.

#### **\*Subject Acceleration, \*Grade Acceleration, \*Early Graduation**

Any student residing in the district may be referred for evaluation by a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor, school psychologist, gifted education specialist, parent or legal guardian for possible accelerated placement.

#### **\*Early Entrance**

-If the child is five by January 1st of the requested school year...parents may refer.

-If the child will not be five by January 1st of the requested school year, the referral must come from an educator within the district, a preschool educator who knows the child, a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child, or at the discretion of the principal.

*(For more information, go to FCS website...Enrollment / Kindergarten Registration to view "Early Entrance Information".)*

## **REFERRAL-Step 1**

### **\*Subject Acceleration                      \*Grade Acceleration**

Parental permission must be given to evaluate a student. An “Acceleration Referral Form” may be requested from the child’s teacher. Keep in mind students must meet certain criteria to be considered for acceleration. Additional testing may be required. Note: for Grade Acceleration the district follows ODE’s recommendation of the *Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS)*.

### **\*Early Entrance**

Parents are to be given the district’s [\*Early Entrance Information\*](#) handout. After reading the information, a parent may pick up an “Early Entrance Referral Form” at Hampton Bennett beginning March 1st. All information must be completed and submitted before testing may take place.

### **\*Early Graduation**

Students seeking early graduation may obtain a copy of the “Early Graduation Application” from the Franklin High School Guidance Office. The student will meet with their guidance counselor to discuss credits and course requirements.

## **EVALUATION-Step 2**

An acceleration committee will convene to evaluate the student and determine the most appropriate available learning environment. The committee will be made up of the following:

- Building principal
- Gifted Education specialist
- Parent or guardian
- Student’s current teacher\*\*\*
- Teacher of accelerated placement \*\*\*
- Guidance Counselor

\*\*\*(*Current and accelerated placement teachers are not required on the committee for **Early Graduation** referrals.*)

### **\*Early Entrance    \*Grade Acceleration**

Students will be evaluated using a state-approved assessment process called the *Iowa Acceleration Scale*. (Will only use IAS for **Early Entrance** if age requirement is as stated by ODE found in *Tier III* of the district’s [\*Early Entrance Information\*](#) chart. If a child falls into the age requirements as shown for *Tier I* and *Tier II* guidelines, then will be assessed per district decision. See chart for more information.)

### **\*Subject Acceleration**

Students will be evaluated using a variety of data sources and multiple data points, including measures of achievement on state standards. Additional testing may be required

### **\*Early Graduation**

Students will be evaluated based on past academic performance of the student.

\*In all cases of acceleration, a decision will be issued to the parents or guardian based on the outcome of the evaluation process within 45 days of receiving the referral.

### **PLACEMENT-Step 3**

A Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be developed for **subject acceleration, grade acceleration, and early entrance**. It will consist of:

- the placement
- strategies to support a successful transition
- an appropriate transition period
- requirements to earn prior high school credit (if applicable)

In the case of **early graduation**, the “**Early Graduation Application**” becomes the Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) upon final approval. The plan will include how the student will complete graduation requirements. It may also include educational options, waiving district prerequisite requirements for enrolling in advanced courses, waiving district graduation requirements that exceed those required by the state, and early promotion to sophomore (or higher) status allowing the student to take state-required assessments.

\*For all accelerations:

- a school staff member will be designated to ensure successful implementation of the WAP and to monitor the adjustment.
- at the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement will become permanent.

### **ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT**

At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian may request in writing an alternative accelerated placement. Other accelerative options will be considered and a decision will be issued within 30 days of receiving the request from the parent or legal guardian. If the acceleration setting is altered, the student’s Written Acceleration Plan will be revised and a new transition period will be specified.

### **WITHDRAWAL**

At any time, a parent or legal guardian may request in writing that the student be withdrawn from the accelerated placement. The principal will remove the student without repercussions.

### **APPEAL PROCEDURE**

A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the Superintendent within 30 days of being notified of the committee’s decision. The superintendent will review the appeal and notify the parents or legal guardian of his/her decision within thirty days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent has the final say.

For more information, please contact the Gifted Services Coordinator:  
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