

## **PROCEDURE FOR ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN, AND EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity, but the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards will vary from student to student. The Lynchburg-Clay Local School District Board of Education 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.

This procedure describes the process that shall be used for evaluating students for possible accelerated placement and identifying students who should be granted early admission to kindergarten, accelerated in one or more individual subject areas, promoted to a higher grade level than their same-age peers, and granted early graduation from high school.

- 1) Any student residing in the district may be referred by a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or a parent or legal guardian of the student. The referral form to request possible acceleration placement, shall be given to the principal of his or her school.
- 2) The principal shall obtain written permission from the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement. The district shall evaluate all students who are referred for evaluation.
- 3) The principal shall convene the Acceleration Evaluation Committee to determine the most appropriate available learning environment for the referred student. This committee shall be comprised of the following: the principal, district school psychologist, district gifted coordinator, guidance counselor (if applicable), current teacher (except for early admission to kindergarten), a teacher at the grade level to which the student may be accelerated and a parent or legal guardian of the referred student.
- 4) The Acceleration Evaluation Committee shall conduct a fair and thorough evaluation of the student in accordance with the District Acceleration Policy and ODE Regulations. The committee shall consider the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement.
  - a) Students considered for whole-grade acceleration and early entrance to kindergarten shall be evaluated using a variety of data sources and testing instruments, including the Iowa Acceleration Scale, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.
  - b) Students considered for individual subject acceleration shall be evaluated using a variety of data sources, including measures of achievement based on state academic content standards.
  - c) Students referred for possible early high school graduation shall be evaluated based on past academic performance, measures of achievement based on state academic content standards, and successful completion of state mandated graduation requirements.
- 5) The Acceleration Evaluation Committee shall issue a written decision to the student's parent or legal guardian based on the outcome of the evaluation process. This notification shall include instructions for appealing the decision. If a consensus recommendation cannot be reached by the committee, a decision regarding whether or not to accelerate the student will be determined by a majority vote of the committee membership.
- 6) The Acceleration Evaluation Committee shall develop a written acceleration plan for the student which designates a staff member to ensure implementation and monitoring of the plan. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student shall be provided with a copy of the written acceleration plan.