

# HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ACADEMIC ACCELERATION

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED: May 16, 2007

215.1. ACADEMIC ACCELERATION	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board ensures that the academic needs for all students shall be met to the fullest extent possible. Consequently, the district supports academic acceleration and flexible skill grouping (i.e. advanced classes) as an appropriate and the best practice for students who meet the criteria for such placements.</p>
2. Definitions	<p><b>Acceleration</b> is the advancement and grouping of students who meet certain criteria in classes or courses with other students who are their intellectual peers and not necessarily their chronological or social peers (i.e. a sixth grader enrolled in an eighth grade Algebra class). This is often referred to as a "vertical" approach.</p> <p><b>Flexible skill grouping</b> is the grouping of students based on their skills in a specific curriculum area. This is usually done in mathematics and/or reading so that students with similar skills in those areas are challenged, taught, or remediated according to their specific needs. An important characteristic of skill grouping is that it is flexible and may change at appropriate intervals, such as after an evaluation. Another important aspect is that students do not remain in these groups for other subjects so that they may have opportunities to be in classes with students who possess a variety of skill and background levels within the school day.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p>To promote this policy, the district shall offer and support accelerated and advanced academic programs for students both outside of and within the regular classroom, and support the appropriate placement of students with identified needs for an accelerated or advanced academic program.</p> <p>Students who demonstrate mastery of grade level material, consistently achieve at high levels and who further demonstrate the capability of exceeding grade-level curricula in the core content areas, will be considered for acceleration.</p> <p>Teachers or parents/guardians who believe that their students or children meet the criteria for academic acceleration or advanced placement must submit a written referral, with appropriate supportive data, to the Child Study/Instructional Support Team at the building level through the classroom teacher, counselor or building principal.</p>

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>School Code 1371</p> <p>PA Code Title 22 Sec. 14.2</p>	<p>Using the student's background information, academic history and referral data, the Team will make a collaborative decision. It shall be the responsibility of the building principal or designee to inform all staff members affected by the decision; this includes principals and counselors in the middle school and high school, especially for students leaving grades five (5) and eight (8), as well as the parent, gifted education program specialists, and classroom and special areas teachers.</p> <p>The building principal or designee shall compile a list of all academically accelerated or advanced students, their directory information, and their current and projected course of study, and submit it to the Superintendent's office on or before September 1 of each school year.</p>
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