

## Acceleration Policy

Southwest Licking Schools has adopted the state model acceleration policy. A copy of this policy can be found at the Ohio Department of Education at

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Resources-for-Parents/Policies-for-Academic-Acceleration/Ohio-Model-Acceleration-Policy-for-Advanced-Learners.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

Kindergarten: Students must turn five years old prior to August 1st to be enrolled in kindergarten and six years old prior to August 1st to be enrolled in first grade. Students who do not meet this requirement may apply for early entrance under the district's acceleration policy.

### Policy Highlights

*Who can be accelerated?*

- Anyone who demonstrates an advanced academic need regardless of gifted identification.
- Also, a four-year old may enter Kindergarten.
- Also, a five-year old may skip Kindergarten and enter 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

*Who may make a referral for acceleration?*

- Parents
- Teachers and Administrators
- Students
- Physicians and Psychologists
- Special note – if referral is for Early Kindergarten and the child will be 5 after January 1 of the Kindergarten year or if the referral is for early 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the child will be 6 after January 1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade year, referral must come from an educator or medical professional.

*Who decides if acceleration occurs?*

- A committee including the gifted teacher(s), gifted coordinator, building administrator, sending and receiving teachers, and parents or guardians make the final decision together.
- Decision is based on information gathered on the Iowa Acceleration Scale.

*What is the process?*

- For early entrance kindergarten, the parent or guardian completes the early entrance kindergarten packet found on the district website.
- For all other referrals, contact your child's building principal or the district gifted coordinator.
- The student's family provides permission for testing.
- The gifted coordinator administers a screener for superior cognitive ability. If the score is below 112, review ends. If the score is between 112 – 114, the student will be given

- another screener for superior cognitive ability. If above 115, the process continues.
- A school psychologist administers a cognitive abilities test.
  - If the student meets the minimum cognitive score for consideration, the gifted coordinator and/or a district school psychologist will administer normed achievement tests for the grade to be skipped in any subjects appropriate. (Single subject test for single subject acceleration; all subjects for grade acceleration.)
  - The Coordinator of Gifted Services will complete the Iowa Acceleration Scales (IAS).
  - IAS scores are tallied, and a recommendation is made.
  - The committee meets to determine best placement.
  - If acceleration will occur, a written acceleration plan (WAP) is developed to guide the transition. Parents will be included in a meeting to create the WAP. The meeting will include the gifted coordinator, building principal, parent, and teacher who will be providing service.

*What is the Iowa Acceleration Scale?*

- Rating scale for acceleration reviews.
- Considers academic, cognitive, motivational, physical growth, and social maturity elements.

*Other notes:*

- One person cannot decide to accelerate or not accelerate.
- Decisions may not be made based on available transportation.
- Subject accelerated students will take the state test at the level of instruction unless no state test exists in the higher-grade level.
- Appeals may be made to the Superintendent within 30 days of the placement decision.