

GRADE ACCELERATION

Whenever the school or a family is considering whole grade acceleration for a learner, the team will follow the procedures outlined below:

Either a family or an educator may initiate the process of whole-grade acceleration. If an educator believes that whole-grade acceleration should be considered, they will begin with a discussion with the GATE coordinator/Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

- The request for consideration will be made to the building principal. The principal will arrange an initial whole-grade acceleration meeting within 30 calendar days from request.
 - This meeting will include: the family, classroom educator, GATE educator in K-5, curriculum director, school psychologist, and designated building administration.
 - The initial meeting will include an opportunity to share the rationale for the request from the family or educator and an explanation of the assessment process utilized by the district. (Agenda 1).

If any of the following critical items apply to the learner, whole-grade acceleration is not recommended. The team should consider whether the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) will be completed and what other options are available to continue enriching the learner's academic skills in one or more subject areas.

- Learner would be accelerated into the same grade a sibling.
- Learner presently has a sibling in the same grade/twin.
- Learner indicates that he/she does not want to be whole grade accelerated.

With the exception of Early Entrance to kindergarten, consideration of whole grade acceleration may only occur after a minimum of six weeks in the learner's age appropriate grade level classroom in West Fargo Public Schools. This time ensures that the classroom educator has had an opportunity to observe the learner's social and academic skills.

If the team determines that whole-grade acceleration could be an option for the learner, the school psychologist will obtain signed consent for evaluation from the family (see consent for evaluation form). The assessment process will be completed as outlined below. Any existing evaluation data will be reviewed and applied to the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) protocol to prevent unnecessary testing. The school psychologist on the team will summarize the results of the assessments in writing within 60 calendar days from the time of consent. These results will be shared with the family at a meeting, as well as provided in writing.

- The principal will arrange a second whole-grade acceleration meeting to correlate with the completion of the assessment and report writing, within 60 calendar days from consent. (Agenda 2)

Consideration for grade level acceleration is determined through the completion of the Iowa Acceleration Scale for children. This comprehensive assessment has many components, including obtaining a full-scale intelligence quotient (FSIQ) along with standardized academic assessments and components to look at the overall development of the learner. (Appendix A)

The statements in this document are intended to provide guidance for daily procedures and practices in order to maintain order, efficiency, and continuity amongst our schools.