RMS Accelerated English Language Arts and Social Studies
Student Criteria for 2026-2027
revised March 2026

For Grade 6 and 7 Students Currently in Grade-Level Course(s): Accelerated English Language Arts and Accelerated Social Studies:

Courses	Star Reading Assessment	Written Language	Team Recommendation
7th and 8th Grade Accelerated ELA and Social Studies	**2 out of 3 REQUIRED**		
	A score ≥ 95 percentile	Evidence of significantly above grade-level writing based on Written Language Common Course Assessments with a minimum of an Advanced rating in at least 60% of the scored domains	YES, student consistently demonstrates characteristics of advanced students identified in charts below

For Grade 6-7 Students Currently in Accelerated Course(s) to Remain in Accelerated Course(s) the Following Year:

Courses	Performance in Accelerated Course(s)
7th and 8th Grade Accelerated ELA and Social Studies	**REQUIRED** At least 80% on major assessments/ assignments in current Accelerated Course(s)

Parent, student, school counselor, and Administrator must sign Override/Underride Form. Once an override occurs, students are expected to remain in the accelerated course until the end of the school year. Course Override/Underride available for one course per year (excluding mathematics).

The list of characteristics are designed to help teams solidify team recommendations and to guide discussions with parents.

A. Characteristics of Advanced Students	Well Above Typical Grade-level Students	Above Typical Grade-level Students	Same as Typical Grade-level Students	Below Typical Grade-level Students	Not Enough Information to Evaluate
1. Student finds pleasure in intellectual activity.					
2. Student demonstrates a high rate of acquisition with little or no need for repetition.					
3. Student demonstrates ability to learn independently.					
4. Student can read independently for sustained periods of time.					
5. Student poses and responds to meaningful questions.					
6. Student demonstrates persistence when presented with challenging tasks.					
7. Student recognizes what high-quality work looks like and determines steps necessary for improving his/her work.					
8. Student has aptitude and potential for successful advanced study.					
9. Student is able to clearly and competently articulate high-level thinking in both spoken and written language.					
10. Student possesses mature work habits and the ability to manage the demands of accelerated work.					

B. Characteristics of Advanced Language Arts Students	Well Above Typical Grade-level Students	Above Typical Grade-level Students	Same as Typical Grade-level Students	Below Typical Grade-level Students	Not Enough Information to Evaluate
1. Student demonstrates high level of personal interest in reading and writing.					
2. Student is able to analyze and think critically about complex text.					
3. Student participates in a range of collaborative discussions that go well beyond the literal.					
4. Student extrapolates pertinent information from text and discussions.					
5. Student's reading stamina allows them to read for extended periods of time without losing focus.					
6. Student writes succinctly with focus and awareness of intended audience.					
7. Student shows evidence of sophisticated style, creativity in word choice, and descriptive language.					
8. Student has a command of the academic language specific to this content area that is above grade level expectations.					

C. Characteristics of Advanced Social Studies Students	Well Above Typical Grade-level Students	Above Typical Grade-level Students	Same as Typical Grade-level Students	Below Typical Grade-level Students	Not Enough Information to Evaluate
1. Student demonstrates high level of personal interest in reading and writing in the field of social studies.					
2. Student can understand significant issues from different perspectives.					
3. Student can construct and articulate reasoned arguments based on evidence.					
4. Student can evaluate sources for validity and can detect bias.					
5. Student can synthesize information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.					
6. Student makes connections between the past and the present.					
7. Student proposes and advocates for solutions to significant human issues.					
8. Student has a command of the academic language specific to this content area that is above grade level expectations.					