



We are relationship-driven, resourceful, resilient, and ready!

Guide to Grade-Level Acceleration for Parents

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

[See ODEW guidance: Early entrance to kindergarten and first grade](#)

Each child who is five years of age on or before the first day of school is eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Each child who is six years of age on or before September 30 and who has successfully completed kindergarten is eligible to enroll in the first grade. (JEB, Entrance Age Mandatory Kindergarten).

Early Entrance Consideration

The law requires the local Board of Education to develop a policy for early entrance consideration (see JEBA, Early Entrance to Kindergarten). Early entrance is considered a grade-level acceleration. Whitehall City Schools follows an acceleration process approved by the Ohio Department of Education to determine appropriate placement for a child with regard to early entrance to kindergarten.

For current residents of Whitehall, applications for early entrance must be submitted via a district Google form that will be accessible upon request. This form will be available February 1st through July 31st in order for the assessment process to be completed before the new school year begins. [Link to the Early Entrance](#) Google Form.

Screening and Eligibility for Further Testing

The district uses the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) (3rd Ed.) to guide data collection and review for determining early entrance to kindergarten. This process includes an initial screener of cognitive ability. The child must attain a recommended score in order to be considered as a potential applicant for early entrance and for the district to continue the full-scale assessment process. For the child who has been screened and determined eligible for further assessment, all testing and criteria for early entrance consideration will follow the Iowa Acceleration Scale guidance.

An acceleration committee will review all data and determine if early entrance is appropriate for the child. The acceleration committee will consist of the Principal, School Psychologist, Gifted Coordinator or Gifted Intervention Specialist, primary grade teacher, and the Parent/Guardian. The acceleration committee will review the Iowa Acceleration Scale and make a decision regarding placement.

Appeals

The acceleration committee decides on early entrance. The decision of the acceleration committee may be appealed in writing to the superintendent or designee within 30 days of the parent/guardian receiving the results of the evaluation. The superintendent or designee will review the appeal and provide a decision within 10 days of receiving the written appeal. The superintendent or designee's decision will be final.

Written Acceleration Plan

If a child is recommended for early entrance, the staff will develop a Written Acceleration Plan during the first quarter of the school year. The child's teacher will oversee the implementation of the acceleration plan, which serves to monitor the child's adjustment to early entrance.

WHOLE GRADE ACCELERATION

Grade-Level Acceleration Consideration

The mission of Whitehall City Schools is to create success through personalized learning for every student, every day. Whole-grade acceleration is a possible means to meet the specific needs of some students in the Whitehall City Schools.

For current residents of Whitehall, requests for grade-level acceleration should be submitted to the principal of the child's respective school. Following ODE operating standards, whole grade acceleration should be a process available at any time during the school year and follow the district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team guidance.

Screening and Eligibility for Further Testing

The district uses the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) (3rd Ed.) to guide data collection and review for determining whole grade acceleration. This process includes an initial screener of cognitive ability. The child must attain a recommended score in order to be considered as a potential applicant for early entrance and for the district to continue the process. For the child who has been screened and determined eligible for further assessment, all testing and criteria for whole grade acceleration consideration will follow the Iowa Acceleration Scale guidance.

An acceleration committee will review all data and determine if grade-level acceleration is appropriate for the child. The acceleration committee will include the Principal, School Psychologist, Gifted Coordinator or Gifted Intervention Specialist, the current Teacher, an accelerated grade/academic content Teacher and the Parent/Guardian. The acceleration committee will review the Iowa Acceleration Scale and make a decision regarding placement.

Appeals

The acceleration committee decides for grade-level acceleration. The decision of the acceleration committee may be appealed in writing to the superintendent or designee within 30

days of the parent/guardian receiving the results of the evaluation. The superintendent or designee (or designee) will review the appeal and provide a decision within 10 days of receiving the written appeal. The superintendent or designee's decision will be final.

Written Acceleration Plan

If a child is recommended for whole grade acceleration, the school will develop a Written Acceleration Plan during the first quarter of the school year. The child's teacher or teachers will oversee the implementation of the acceleration plan, which serves to monitor the child's adjustment to grade-level acceleration.

Board of Education Policies

- IKEB, Acceleration
- JEB, Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)
- JEBA, Early Entrance to Kindergarten