

ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN,
AND EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

In accordance with the belief that all children are entitled to an education commensurate with their particular needs, students who can exceed the grade-level indicators and benchmarks set forth in the standards must be afforded the opportunity and be encouraged to do so.

The Licking Heights Local Board of Education believes that such students often require access to advanced curriculum in order to realize their potential contribution to themselves and society. All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity, but the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards will vary from student to student.

The Licking Heights Local Board of Education believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For many advanced learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments, and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers.

This policy describes the process that shall be used for evaluating students for possible accelerated placement and identifying students who should be granted early admission to kindergarten, accelerated in one or more individual subject areas, promoted to a higher grade level than their same-age peers, and granted early graduation from high school.

Referrals and Evaluation

- A. Any student residing in the District may be referred by a teacher, administrator, gifted education specialists, guidance counselor, school psychologists, or a parent or legal guardian of the student to the principal of his/her school for evaluation for possible accelerated placement. A student may refer himself/herself or a peer through a district staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities.

- B. Copies of this policy and referral forms for evaluation for possible early entrance, whole-grade acceleration, individual subject acceleration, and early high school graduation shall be made available to district staff and parents at each school building. The principal of each school building (or his/her designee) shall solicit referrals of students for evaluation for possible accelerated placement annually, and ensure that all staff s/he supervises are aware of procedures for referring students for evaluation for possible accelerated placement.
- C. The principal (or his/her designee) of the referred students' school shall obtain written permission from the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement. The District shall evaluate all students who are referred for evaluation and whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have granted permission to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement. ~~Any student transferring into the District will be assessed within ninety (90) days of the transfer at the request of a parent.~~

- D. Children who are referred for evaluation for possible accelerated placement sixty (60) or more days prior to the start of the school year shall be evaluated in advance of the start of the school year so that the child may be placed in the accelerated placement on the first day of school. Children who are referred for possible accelerated placement sixty (60) or more days prior to the start of the second semester shall be evaluated for possible accelerated placement at the start of the second semester. In all other cases, evaluations of a referred child shall be scheduled at the student's principal's discretion and placed in the accelerated setting(s) at the time recommended by the acceleration evaluation committee – if the committee determines the child should be accelerated. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3321.01, all children who will be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall be evaluated upon the request of the child's parent or legal guardian. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the District, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested may also be evaluated for possible early admittance at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the student may be admitted.
- E. A parent or legal guardian of the evaluated student shall be notified in writing of the outcome of the evaluation process within thirty (30) days of the evaluation. This notification shall include instructions for appealing the outcome of the evaluation process.
- F. A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the local Superintendent within thirty (30) days of being notified of the committee's decision. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and notify the parent or legal guardian who filed the appeal of his/her final decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final. However, the student may be referred and evaluated again at the next available opportunity, if s/he is again referred for evaluation by an individual eligible to make referrals as described in this policy.

Acceleration Evaluation Committee

Composition

- A. The referred student's principal (or his/her designee) shall convene an evaluation committee to determine the most appropriate available learning environment for the referred student. This committee shall be comprised of the following:
1. a principal or assistant principal from the child's current school;
 2. a current teacher of the referred student (with the exception of students referred for possible early admission to kindergarten);
 3. a teacher at the grade level to which the student may be accelerated (with the exception of students referred for possible early graduation from high school);
 4. a parent or legal guardian of the referred student or a representative designated by a parent or legal guardian of the referred student;
 5. a gifted education coordinator or gifted intervention specialist.

If a gifted coordinator or gifted intervention specialist is not available in the District, a school psychologist or guidance counselor with expertise in the appropriate use of academic acceleration may be substituted.

- B. The acceleration evaluation committee shall be charged with the following responsibilities:
1. The acceleration evaluation committee shall conduct a fair and thorough evaluation of the student.
 - a. Students considered for whole-grade acceleration and early entrance to kindergarten shall be evaluated using an acceleration assessment process approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The committee shall consider the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement in its deliberations.

- d. an appropriate transition period for accelerated placement for early entrants to kindergarten, grade-level accelerated students, and students accelerated in individual content areas.
4. For students the acceleration evaluation committee recommends for early high school graduation, the committee shall develop a written acceleration plan designed to allow the student to complete graduation requirements on an accelerated basis. This may include the provision of educational options in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-06(G), waiving District prerequisite requirements for enrolling in advance courses, waiving District graduation requirements that exceed those required by the State, and early promotion to sophomore (or higher) status to allow the student to take the Ohio Graduation Test.
5. The acceleration evaluation committee shall designate a school staff member to ensure successful implementation of the written acceleration plan and to monitor the adjustment of the student to the accelerated setting.

Accelerated Placement

- A. The acceleration evaluation committee shall specify an appropriate transition period for accelerated placement for early entrants to kindergarten, grade-level accelerated students, and students accelerated in individual subject areas.
 1. At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian of the student may request in writing that the student be withdrawn from accelerated placement. In such cases, the principal shall remove the student without repercussions from the accelerated placement.

2. At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian of the student may request in writing an alternative accelerated placement. In such cases, the principal shall direct the acceleration committee to consider other accelerative options and issue a decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the request from the parent or legal guardian. If the student will be placed in an accelerated setting different from that initially recommended by the acceleration evaluation committee, the student's written acceleration plan shall be revised accordingly, and a new transition period shall be specified.
- B. At the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement shall become permanent. The student's records shall be modified accordingly, and the acceleration implementation plan shall become part of the student's permanent record to facilitate continuous progress through the curriculum.

Adopted 10/21/08
Revised 6/16/15
Revised 7/14/15
[Revised \(DATE\)](#)

[© Neola 2016](#)