

Referral for Acceleration

Commonly asked questions...

In what areas are students eligible for acceleration?

There are four common areas in which acceleration is commonly considered. They are as follows: early entrance to kindergarten, acceleration in specific subject areas, whole grade acceleration (grade-skipping), and early high school graduation.

Who should (and should not be) accelerated? **(taken from the Ohio Department of Education)**

While actual decisions about acceleration should always be guided by a thorough evaluation of the student using a research-based evaluation process, most good candidates for acceleration will display some of the following characteristics:

- Demonstrates above average general cognitive ability;
- Achieves academically in one or more subject areas a grade level or more higher than the norm for his or her age;
- Expresses a desire for more challenging instruction;
- Is socially mature enough to adapt to an environment serving older students;
- Responds positively to the possibility of acceleration.

Acceleration may not be a good option for students with some of the following characteristics:

- Has an older sibling in the same school in the grade level to which the student may be accelerated;
- Is sufficiently challenged by the curriculum at his or her current grade level;
- Would be significantly less emotionally mature than typical students at the grade level to which he or she may be accelerated;
- Responds negatively to the possibility of acceleration.

Further, one type of acceleration for a student might be appropriate when another would not be. For example, a student who is very advanced in reading and writing ability but struggles in math and is of average ability in science and social studies might be an excellent candidate for subject acceleration in reading and language arts, but a poor candidate for a whole “grade skip.”

Conversely, a student who is strong in several areas might be happier and more successful if accelerated on a full-time basis so she could be with one set of peers all day and travel less back and forth between classrooms than she would if accelerated in only one or two subject areas. Near the end of the K-12 experience, some students may be ready to move on to college on a full-time basis and benefit from the opportunity to graduate high school early. Others may prefer to stay in high school and take advantage of other options, such as Advanced Placement courses and the PSEO program.

What do I do if I would like my child to be evaluated for potential acceleration?

The first step is to complete the acceleration referral form and return it to the district Coordinator of Gifted Services. If you have more specific questions, Mrs. Frederick may be reached at jfrederick@ridgemont.k12.oh.us or via phone at (937)365-2141.