

Xenia Community Schools
Office of Gifted Services & Talent Development



506 Dayton Avenue
Xenia, OH 45385
937.372.9201 Extension 2142

Academic Acceleration Policy

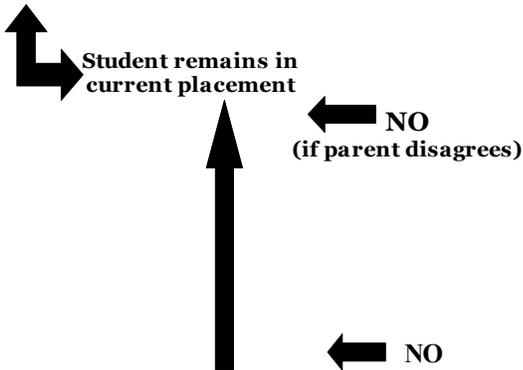


ACCELERATION Process Overview

- INFORMATION**
- The evaluation must be fair and thorough.
 - The evaluation should be based on data and factual observations.
 - Whole grade or early entrance must include the Iowa Acceleration Scale
 - Whenever the IAS is used, the gifted coordinator must attend the meetings
 - Subject acceleration must be based on achievement, academic standards, expected grade level testing, and desire for placement.
 - If no consensus can be reached, a majority vote of the team can be the deciding factor.
 - During the transition period, parent or guardian can request a change of placement in writing.
 - Parent(s) may elect to decline services at any time.

FINAL DECISION
Must be in writing within 30 days of the appeal. The Superintendent's decision is final, however the student may be referred again.

APPEAL TO SUPERINTENDENT
Must be in writing within 30 days of the decision



**STEP 1
REFERRAL**

A referral is made by the student, parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, counselor, psychologist, gifted staff member by filling out the "Referral Form for Academic Acceleration" and submitting it to the Building Principal or Gifted Coordinator. The referral must be 60 days prior to start of school or start of semester. A response will be given 45 days from the date of receiving the referral.

**STEP 2
OBTAIN PARENT PERMISSION TO REVIEW**

Parent/Guardian must sign and submit the "Permission for Review" form to the Building Principal or Gifted Coordinator granting permission to review records, conduct interviews, observe the child, administer assessments, and collect data that will help the team make a decision about academic placement.

**STEP 3
TEAM MEETING**

Principal, Current/Future Teacher, Parent/Guardian, Gifted Intervention Specialist and/or Gifted Coordinator, School Psychologist or Counselor meet to determine data to collect, testing protocol, assign roles/responsibilities, and determine the next meeting date within 45 days of receipt of referral.

**STEP 4
DATA COLLECTION**

For Whole Grade Acceleration, the Iowa Acceleration Scale will be used to guide the data collection process. For Subject Acceleration, a variety of data sources will be used. Recommendations of data sources will be suggested by the Gifted Coordinator at the first team meeting. Team members may suggest additional sources.

**STEP 5
DATA REPORTING & TEAM DECISION**

For Whole Grade Acceleration, the Iowa Acceleration Scale will be used to guide the data collection process. For Subject Acceleration, a variety of data sources will be used. Recommendations of data sources will be suggested by the Gifted Coordinator at the first team meeting. Team members may suggest additional sources. If a "YES" recommendation, GIS develops Written Acceleration Plan (WAP).

**STEP 6
TRANSITION PERIOD & REVIEW MEETING**

Written Acceleration Plan is reviewed after initial student placement of one quarter (9 weeks). The Gifted Coordinator or GIS will monitor progress during this period. A signed copy of the WAP is placed in permanent record folder if the student is successful during the transition period. Placement is recommended.

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Xenia Community Schools- Elementary Schools

School	Address	Principal	Phone/Email
Arrowood Elementary School	1588 Pawnee Drive Xenia, OH 45385	Mr. Travis Yost	Phone: 937.372.9251 tyost@xenia.k12.oh.us
Cox Elementary School	506 Dayton Ave Xenia, OH 45385	Ms. Lisa Peterson	Phone: 937.372.9201 lpeterso@xenia.k12.oh.us
McKinley Elementary School	829 Colorado Dr. Xenia, OH 45385	Mr. Garry Hawes	Phone: 937.372.1251 ghawes@xenia.k12.oh.us
Shawnee Elementary School	92 East Ankeney Mill Road Xenia, OH 45385	Mr. Scott Poole	Phone: 937.372.6461 spoole@xenia.k12.oh.us
Tecumseh Elementary School	1058 Old Springfield Pk Xenia, OH 45385	Ms. Cathryn Petticrew	Phone: 937.372.3321 cpetticrew@xenia.k12.oh.us

Xenia Community Schools- Middle/High Schools

School	Address	Principal	Phone/Email
Warner Middle School	600 Buckskin Trail Xenia, OH 45385	Mr. Ted Holop	Phone: 937.376.9488 tholop@xenia.k12.oh.us
Xenia High School	303 Kinsey Road Xenia, OH 45385	Dr. Hank Jacoby	Phone: 937.372.6983 hjacoby@xenia.k12.oh.us

General Information About Academic Acceleration

In April of 2005, the State Board of Education adopted “A Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners” in response to House Bill 66 requirements. The bill also required Ohio’s city, local and exempted village school districts to implement the model policy or a similar policy to take effect beginning in the 2006-2007 school year.

In December, the General Assembly passed House Bill 79, which amended House Bill 66 to require schools districts to submit their acceleration policies to ODE for review and approval. Section 3324.10 of HB 79 reads:

(A) Prior to June 30, 2006, the state board of education shall adopt a model student acceleration policy addressing recommendations in the department of education's 2005 study conducted under the gifted research and demonstration grant program. The policy shall address, but not be limited to, whole grade acceleration, subject area acceleration, and early high school graduation.

(B) The board of education of each city, local, and exempted village school district shall implement a student acceleration policy to take effect beginning in the 2006-2007 school year. The policy shall either be the model adopted by the state board under division (A) of this section or a policy covering similar issues that is adopted by the district board. If the district board does not adopt the state board's model, it shall submit its policy to the department for review and approval. The department, upon request, shall provide technical assistance to the district board in developing the policy.

Districts are required by Section 3324.10 of HB 79 to either adopt the state Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners or submit for review a district policy that covers similar issues (early entrance to kindergarten, whole grade acceleration, subject area acceleration, and early high school graduation).

Definition of Acceleration

Acceleration is any modification or change of the regular instructional program that enables a student to progress more rapidly and to complete a program in less time or at an earlier age than is traditional. The acceleration opportunities should include, but are not limited to:

- ~ early entrance into kindergarten
- ~ moving at a faster pace in a subject area
- ~ single subject acceleration
- ~ whole grade acceleration
- ~ obtaining high school credit while in middle school
- ~ obtaining college credit while in high school
- ~ early graduation

Eligibility for Acceleration By Type

All students in the district are eligible to be evaluated for possible acceleration. Gifted identification is not required.

Subject Acceleration, Whole Grade Acceleration, or Early Graduation

Any student residing in the district may be referred by a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor, school psychologist, gifted education specialist, parent or legal guardian, peer, or they may refer him/herself to be evaluated for possible accelerated placement.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade

- (A)** If the child is five by January 1st of the requested school year...parents may refer.
- (B)** If the child will not be five by January 1st of the requested school year, the referral must come from an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.

For more detailed information on Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade, please see the document titled "A Parent's Guide to Early Entrance" found on the Xenia Community Schools Office of Gifted Services and Talent Development page of the district website at <http://www.xenia.k12.oh.us/administrativeDepartment.aspx?aid=28>

The Referral Process

Step 1- Referral/Nomination

Subject Acceleration, Grade Acceleration, Early Entrance

Parental permission must be given to evaluate a student. This may be obtained through the “Acceleration Referral Form”. Forms are located in the main office of each school building or on the Xenia Community Schools Office of Gifted Services and Talent Development page of the district website at <http://www.xenia.k12.oh.us/administrativeDepartment.aspx?aid=28>

Early Graduation

Students seeking early graduation must use the “Acceleration Referral Form”. This form may be obtained from a Xenia High School guidance counselor or on the Xenia Community Schools Office of Gifted Services and Talent Development page of the district website at <http://www.xenia.k12.oh.us/administrativeDepartment.aspx?aid=28>

The principal (or his or her designee) of the referred student's 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 will evaluate all students who have permission.

Children who are referred for evaluation sixty or more days prior to the start of the school year shall be evaluated in advance of the start of the school year. Children who are referred sixty or more days prior to the start of the second semester shall be evaluated at the start of the second semester. In all other cases, evaluations of a referred child shall be scheduled at the building principal's discretion.

Step 2- Evaluation

An acceleration committee will convene to evaluate the student and determine the most appropriate available learning environment. The committee could consist of the following school personnel: Building Principal, Guidance Counselor, Gifted Education Specialist, Parent or Guardian, Student's Current Teacher, Teacher of Accelerated Placement

Early Entrance and **Whole Grade Acceleration** will be evaluated using the Iowa Acceleration Scale which is a state approved assessment process. The committee shall consider the student's own thoughts on possible acceleration placement in its deliberations.

Subject Acceleration will be evaluated using a variety of data sources, including measures of achievement on state academic content standards (in subjects for which the state had approved content standards) and consideration of the student's maturity and desire for accelerated placement. The committee shall consider the student's own thoughts on possible acceleration placement in its deliberations.

Early Graduation will be evaluated based on academic performance, measures of achievement based on state academic content standards, and successful completion of state mandated graduation requirements. The committee shall consider the student's own thoughts on the possible accelerated placement in its deliberations.

In all cases of acceleration, a decision will be issued to the parents or legal guardian based on the outcome of the evaluation process within 45 days of receiving the referral.

Step 3 – Placement

A Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be developed for **subject acceleration, grade acceleration, and early entrance**. It will consist of:

- ~the placement
- ~strategies to support a successful transition
- ~an appropriate transition period (one month)
- ~requirements to earn prior high school credit (if applicable)

In the case of **early graduation**, the Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will consist of a plan determined by the student and guidance counselor. The plan will include how the student will complete graduation requirements. It may also include educational options, waiving district prerequisite requirements for enrolling in advanced 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.

~ A school staff member will be designated to ensure successful implementation of the WAP and to monitor the adjustment.

~ If at anytime during the course of the month the teacher or the parent feels that the acceleration placement is not appropriate, they can submit their case in writing. If the teacher submits the letter, there must be another committee review and recommendation. A meeting must be held with the parents to review the committee decision and to give them the opportunity to agree or disagree. (The parent sits on the committee and is a part of the decision making team. Consensus is preferable, but a democratic vote may be necessary if there is no consensus.)

~At the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement will become permanent.

Alternative Placement

At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian may request in writing an alternative accelerated placement. Other accelerative options will be considered and a decision will be issued within 30 days of receiving the request from the parent or legal guardian. If the acceleration setting is altered, the student's Written Acceleration Plan will be revised and a new transition period will be specified.

Withdrawal

At any time, a parent or legal guardian may request in writing that the student be withdrawn from the accelerated placement. The principal will remove the student without repercussions.

Appeal Procedure

A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the Superintendent within 30 days of being notified of the committee's decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and notify the parents or legal guardian of his/her decision within thirty days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent has the final say.



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Referral Form for Academic Acceleration

I wish to request that this student be referred for possible academic acceleration. I understand that this nomination is one component in a multi-faceted process. As part of this referral, I understand that additional testing may be a necessary part of the process. A parent or guardian's signature on this form gives permission for such testing. After data from all assessments are compiled, a decision will be made by a screening committee as to the appropriate service option for this student.

Name of Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

School/Homeroom Teacher: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Type of Acceleration:

() Whole Grade - From Grade _____ to Grade _____

() Individual Subject Area- Subject Area(s): _____

() Early Graduation from High School-See District Policy

Reasons for Academic Acceleration Referral

(Please be very specific. Attach any additional information and available documentation to this form.)

Signature of person(s) initiating referral

Position or Relationship to Student

Name (please print)

Phone

Date

Signature of person receiving referral

Date

RETURN TO BUILDING PRINCIPAL



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Permission for Review- Academic Acceleration

I, _____, hereby give my permission for the Xenia Community
(Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian Name)

School District to complete assessments for _____ to be considered for
(Name of Child)

Academic Acceleration.

In giving my permission, I understand that any or all of the following may occur:

1. Review of relevant records;
2. Interviews with caregiver and/or parent/guardian;
3. Observation(s) of my child;
4. Intellectual Assessment;
5. Character/Social Assessment;
6. Academic/Aptitude Assessment;
7. Iowa Acceleration Scale Assessment;
8. Other(s), as needed

I understand and agree that the information collected by the school district will be reviewed by the team for the purpose of evaluating my child as a candidate for Academic Acceleration.

Print Name of Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian

SIGNATURE of Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian

Date