Whole Grade Acceleration
Standard Operating Procedures

<u>Eligibility</u>

Students in Kindergarten through 7th grade are eligible to apply for Whole Grade Acceleration (WGA). Use the Eligibility Checklist to start the WGA process.

<u>Process</u>

Portland Public Schools uses the IOWA Acceleration Scale, 3rd Edition (IAS-3) to evaluate students for whole grade assessments. The IAS-3 was developed after several decades of clinical work with students considered for whole-grade acceleration. One of the important considerations in whole-grade acceleration, and an especially strong feature of the IAS, is systemizing the decision-making procedures in order to improve the probability that adequate information is gathered and objective decisions are made.

Critical Items: If any of these items apply, whole grade acceleration is not recommended
- Student would be accelerated into the same grade or higher than a sibling.
- Student currently has a sibling in the same grade.
- Student indicates they do not want to be whole grade accelerated.
- Reading and Math MAP scores are below 90th percentile based on SPRING norms for the *grade to be skipped*. See the <u>MAP Norms</u> on page 3 for reading and math.
- Student ability score on the CogAT assessment is less than 115 (can be proctored at school request).

	FALL Application Window: **first two weeks of September** **For WGA in the current school year**	**SPRING Application Window:** **mid-April to mid-May** **For WGA in the next school year**
Critical Items Review:	The first step for whole grade acceleration is to review the critical items listed above. If any of the items apply, whole grade acceleration is not recommended. Contact the TAG TOSA with any clarifying questions. **IF** MAP scores indicate readiness (90th percentile or above for the grade to be skipped), the TAG facilitator contacts the TOSA to set up intellectual testing (CogAT). After the Critical Items Review, the teacher contacts the family to let them know the status of the process: ☐ WGA is not recommended because of current ability and achievement data **OR** ☐ The application is moving to the next phase of collecting assessment data. Contact TAG TOSA to set up aptitude and achievement testing.	
Testing	A TAG TOSA or proctor will schedule and administer tests for whole grade accelerations which will include: ● IOWA Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) given at grade level (achievement) ● ITBS given at two grade levels above current grade (aptitude) During this phase, students must reach the required threshold (minimum scores) to move forward with the application.	

Team Meeting:	This meeting MUST include parent/s, teacher/s, an administrator, and other appropriate school staff. Assessment data is shared at this meeting to indicate whether or not the application will move to the next phase.
	
	☐ WGA is not recommended because of current ability, aptitude, and achievement data
	OR
	☐ The application is moving to the next phase. Work as a team to complete these documents:
	   ● WGA Application
	   ● Current teacher completes the Teacher Questionnaire

Review of documentation and final decision	The TAG department will review documentation and test results using the Iowa Acceleration Scale, 3rd Edition protocol and document the placement decision.
Notification	**TAG Department** notifies schools and families by mid-October for FALL applications **School** updates records to reflect the change if applicable by mid-October for FALL applications. **TAG Department** notifies schools and families by the last day of school for SPRING applications **School** updates records to reflect the change if applicable by the last day of school for SPRING applications.

Decision Rules

Multiple measures are used to determine student readiness for whole grade acceleration. The IAS-3 protocol assigns points to a multitude of data points and information, including:

- **Critical Items Review:** The first step for whole grade acceleration is to review the critical items listed above. *If any of the items apply, whole grade acceleration is not recommended.* Contact the family to discuss other options for meeting their student's learning needs.
- **Assessment Data:** IAS-3 protocol uses assessment data as an indicator of academic ability, aptitude, and achievement based on composite scores from the CogAT and ITBS assessments. *A minimum score is needed to move to the next phase of the application process.*
- **School Team:** Conversation as a team about the student, and logistics such as where the child will be moved to, any issues this may create, such as transportation, etc.
- **Teacher Questionnaire:** The current classroom teacher answers questions pertaining to the whole child, including developmental and social/emotional readiness. Responses have point values which indicate readiness in non-academic categories.

The IAS scale grand total: Points are compiled from all categories of the application:

    Between 60-80 points: Excellent candidate, Acceleration is recommended
    Between 46-59 points: Good candidate, Acceleration is recommended
    Between 35-45 points: No clear recommendation, review materials and other evidence
    34 or fewer points: Acceleration is not recommended

MAP Norms for Math and Reading: These scores are **NOT** used in the WGA process and do **not** guarantee eligibility. Rather, they are to be used as an **initial screening tool** in the Critical Items Review.

FALL Application MAP Norms for Math and Reading

Current grade level in MATH	Grade to skip TO	Minimum RIT Required	MAP Assessment	Current grade level in READING	Grade to skip TO	Minimum RIT Required	MAP Assessment
K	1	193	MAP Growth K-2	K	1	190	MAP Growth K-2
1	2	207	MAP Growth K-2 or 2-5	1	2	205	MAP Growth K-2 or 2-5
2	3	219	**MAP Growth 2-5**	2	3	218	**MAP Growth 2-5**
3	4	230	MAP Growth 2-5	3	4	226	MAP Growth 2-5
4	5	240	MAP Growth 2-5	4	5	231	MAP Growth 2-5
5	6	245	**MAP Growth 6+**	5	6	236	**MAP Growth 6+**
6	7	251	MAP Growth 6+	6	7	239	MAP Growth 6+
7	8	256	MAP Growth 6+	7	8	243	MAP Growth 6+

SPRING Application MAP Norms for Math and Reading

Current grade level in MATH	Grade to skip PAST	Minimum RIT Required	MAP Assessment	Current grade level in READING	Grade to skip PAST	Minimum RIT Required	MAP Assessment
K	1	193	MAP Growth K-2	K	1	190	MAP Growth K-2
1	2	207	MAP Growth K-2 or 2-5	1	2	205	MAP Growth K-2 or 2-5
2	3	219	**MAP Growth 2-5**	2	3	218	**MAP Growth 2-5**
3	4	230	MAP Growth 2-5	3	4	226	MAP Growth 2-5
4	5	240	MAP Growth 2-5	4	5	231	MAP Growth 2-5
5	6	245	**MAP Growth 6+**	5	6	236	**MAP Growth 6+**
6	7	251	MAP Growth 6+	6	7	239	MAP Growth 6+
7	8	256	MAP Growth 6+	7	8	243	MAP Growth 6+

How to read these charts: find the current grade, slide across to see the grade to be skipped and the minimum RIT score needed. For example, if you are a 5th grade teacher and the student wants to skip 6th grade **math**, the minimum RIT is 245, but it MUST be based on the MAP Growth 6+ assessment. Please make note of which assessment is required if you are testing a **2nd** or **5th** grade student.