

Whole Grade Acceleration Standard Operating Procedures

Eligibility

Students in Kindergarten through 7th grade are eligible to apply for Whole Grade Acceleration (WGA).

Process

SPRING Application Window: mid-April to mid-May For WGA in the next school year	
Team Meeting:	<p>Anyone who seeks grade acceleration for a student must begin the conversation <u>as a team</u> at the school. This should include parent/s, teacher/s, other appropriate school staff, and the principal. The school team meets initially and completes all but the final section of the application.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Current teacher completes the required questionnaire </p>
Contact the TAG department to initiate testing and data collection	<p>If the school team believes grade acceleration may be appropriate for a student, the school must make a request to the TAG office to begin assessment and observation.</p>
Testing and Observation	<p>A TAG TOSA will schedule and administer tests for whole grade accelerations which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CogAT given at grade level ● ITBS given at grade level ● ITBS given at two grade levels above current grade <p>A TAG TOSA will complete one classroom observation using the observation tool.</p>
Review of documentation and final decision	<p>The TAG department will review documentation and test results using the Iowa Acceleration Scale form and document the placement decision.</p>
Notification	<p>TAG Department notifies school(s) and family of the final decision by the last day of the school year.</p> <p>Records are updated to reflect the change if applicable by the last day of the school year.</p>

**FALL Application Window: first two weeks of September
For WGA in the current school year**

Team Meeting:	<p>Anyone who seeks grade acceleration for a student must begin the conversation <u>as a team</u> at the school. This should include parent/s, teacher/s, other appropriate school staff, <i>the receiving teacher /school representative</i>, and the principal. The school team meets initially and completes all but the final section of the application.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Current teacher completes the required questionnaire</p>
Contact the TAG department to initiate testing and data collection	<p>If the school team believes grade acceleration may be appropriate for a student, the school must make a request to the TAG office to begin assessment and observation.</p>
Testing and Observation	<p>A TAG TOSA will schedule and administer tests for whole grade accelerations which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CogAT given at grade level ● ITBS given at grade level ● ITBS given at two grade levels above current grade <p>A TAG TOSA will complete one classroom observation using the observation tool.</p>
Review of documentation and final decision	<p>The TAG department will review documentation and test results using the Iowa Acceleration Scale form and document the placement decision.</p>
Notification	<p>TAG Department notifies school(s) and family of the final decision before October 15. Records are updated to reflect the change if applicable by October 15. Student must be moved to the new grade/classroom by October 15.</p>

Assessment

For Whole Grade Acceleration, the TAG department uses the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS), 3rd edition. This includes the use of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) for Intellectual testing, and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for Reading and Math testing.

Decision Rules

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

- **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.
- **Assessment Data:** IAS scale uses assessment data as an indicator of Academic Ability, Aptitude, and Achievement based on composite scores from the CogAT and ITBS assessments
- **Teacher Questionnaire:** The current classroom teacher answers questions pertaining to the whole child, including developmental and social/emotional readiness
- **Observation:** A TAG TOSA will make a classroom observation noting participation, behavior, interactions with peers and adults, etc.

The IAS scale grand total:

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