

Ottawa Hills Local School District

Bylaws & Policies

5409 - STUDENT ACCELERATION

The guiding philosophy for determining acceleration will be what is in the best interest of the child.

The Board recognizes that all students learn and progress at different rates and that the time it takes to reach academic standards varies among students. The Board believes students should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential and that the practice of educational acceleration is used to match appropriate learning opportunities with student abilities. The goals of acceleration are to adjust the pace of instruction to the student's capabilities, to provide an appropriate level of challenge, and to reduce the time period necessary for students to complete traditional schooling.

The District offers acceleration strategies in four (4) areas.

- A. **Whole-grade acceleration:** The practice of assigning a student on a full-time basis to a higher level than is typical, given the student's age, for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.
- B. **Individual subject acceleration:** The practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level or more advanced course than is typical, given the student's age, for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one (1) or more subject areas.
- C. **Early admission to kindergarten:** The practice of admitting a student to kindergarten who has not yet reached the typical age at which students are admitted to kindergarten for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.
- D. **Early high school graduation:** The practice of facilitating completion of the high school program in fewer than four (4) years for the purpose of providing earlier than typical access to post-secondary educational opportunities.

Referrals to students to be considered for acceleration should be made to the building principal. Students referred and having parental permission may be tested using a variety of assessments. The assessment results are reviewed by an acceleration evaluation committee to determine the most appropriate and available learning environment for the students.

The committee makes a recommendation regarding placement. The building principal, or designee, will notify the student's parents/guardians. Parents/guardians have the right to appeal the committee's recommendation to the Superintendent/designee.

The committee may develop an acceleration plan for a student who is offered whole-grade acceleration, acceleration in one or more individual subject areas, or early high school graduation. The parents/guardians of the student will be notified regarding any plans for acceleration.

The Board directs the administration to develop rules for referring and evaluating students who may qualify for acceleration services.

R.C. 3321.01, 3324.01 et seq.
A.C. 3301-51-15