

### PUPIL ACCELERATION

When a pupil achieves so far beyond the grade level of placement that enrichment of the program cannot meet his/her academic needs, the teacher's evaluation of the pupil's success and potential will serve as the basis for considering acceleration of a pupil. The recommendation for skipping a grade level or progressing to higher levels for particular subjects shall be influenced by the following general guidelines:

1. The initial recommendation toward acceleration must come from the pupil's teacher and principal.
2. The superintendent will designate a review team of appropriate staff, including a child study team representative, to consider the teacher's principal's recommendations.
3. The pupil and parents will be consulted to determine their wishes, expectations and concerns. If the pupil subsequently exhibits behavior exemplifying stress that can logically be traced to the decision to accelerate, the superintendent will proceed cautiously in the status change. The superintendent must be convinced that acceleration of the pupil is perceived as a positive step by everyone involved and that the pupil's participation clearly reflects the maturity, ability and perseverance to excel.
4. The reasons for acceleration will be evaluated in terms of the pupil's individual benefits toward academic, social and emotional growth and development.
5. The superintendent shall evaluate the latest research on success of accelerating pupils. The need for expanded curriculum that emphasizes higher order thinking skills is not to be confused with the recommendation for acceleration.
6. Based on the district's standardized testing scores, the designated achievement levels must be exceeded and supported with a high level of interest and ability to meet the district standards for acceleration.
7. The level of challenge for each of such designated achievement levels is established as the 96% national percentile in a specific subject area and a school ability index of 130.
8. The teaching strategy developed for the pupil shall include provisions to satisfactorily cover the essential skill areas that will not be received due to skipping a grade.
9. A pupil accelerated for academic reasons will be evaluated by the same criteria as other students in that grade or subject areas.

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10. As a sending elementary district, cooperation will be sought from the Southern Gloucester County Regional High School District to provide acceleration in subject content.
11. The superintendent will seek input and cooperation of constituent districts in developing the teaching strategy of acceleration of pupils.

Date: March 15, 1989