



Nurturing Potential | *Inspiring* Excellence



The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration

The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA) is the nation's only comprehensive institute focusing on issues of academic acceleration.

The 2004 publication *A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students* successfully brought the issue of academic acceleration for gifted students to a national audience. The 2009 publication of *Guidelines for Developing an Academic Acceleration Policy* provides the nation's schools with specific guidelines for writing acceleration policy. Political figures, educators, and parents are engaged in a new and vibrant conversation about the benefits of acceleration.

Dear Colleagues:

What curriculum *is most effective* for gifted students? This is one of the most important questions in our field.

The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA) is unique in that its sole focus is research on acceleration so teachers and administrators can implement the most effective curriculum for gifted students. IRPA also consults with policy makers so that educational policies and procedures will reflect research results.

I encourage educators to use this valuable international resource.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Colangelo, Director
Myron and Jacqueline Blank Professor of
Gifted Education

IRPA Research Staff

Dr. David F. Lohman
Research Director, IRPA

Dr. Nicholas Colangelo
Director, Belin-Blank Center

Dr. Susan G. Assouline
Associate Director, Belin-Blank Center

Dr. Maureen A. Marron
Associate Research Scientist, IRPA



The Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA)

IRPA, the first institute of its kind in the world, was established in 2006 at The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at The University of Iowa.

www.accelerationinstitute.org

IRPA is dedicated to the study of curricular acceleration for academically talented children.

The primary purposes of the Institute are to:

- provide educators, parents, policy makers, and the general public with current information on the many aspects of acceleration;
- serve as an international clearinghouse for research and policy on acceleration;
- conduct and support research on the factors that moderate success with different forms of acceleration; and,
- provide leadership in developing and implementing acceleration policy.

The Institute's Web site (www.accelerationinstitute.org) provides this information for practitioners, the public, and researchers.

At IRPA's Website, you can:

- find answers to basic questions (What is acceleration? What forms does it take? Why should students be accelerated?);
- obtain advice on the acceleration decision-making process, including information on the *Iowa Acceleration Scale (3rd ed.)*, a tool for making objective decisions about grade-based acceleration;
- download for free *A Nation Deceived* in English (Volumes I and II) and nine other languages (Volume I);
- download for free *Guidelines for Developing an Academic Acceleration Policy*;
- read personal stories about experiences with academic acceleration submitted by students, parents, and teachers;
- download a free presentation on acceleration;
- view information on acceleration practices and policies in each state; and,
- review an annotated bibliography on research about acceleration.

IRPA is made possible through the support of a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The opinions expressed are those of IRPA and do not necessarily reflect the views of the John Templeton Foundation.