

# A Nation Empowered

## Evidence Trumps the Excuses Holding Back America's Brightest Students

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### What Do We Need to Know About Academic Acceleration and Gifted Students?

- Acceleration works. An extensive research base supports acceleration for gifted students.
- Well-researched methods have been developed for systematically evaluating a candidate for acceleration and guiding teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and the student through the process.
- Acceleration can be provided in a variety of ways, including content acceleration (where a student studies advanced content in only one subject), grade skipping, curriculum compacting, and dual enrollment in high school and college. Therefore, acceleration can be tailored to the academic and social needs of the individual student.
- Acceleration supports the social and emotional development of students by placing them with other like-minded students.
- Acceleration provides academic challenges and stimulation, which are needed for continuous development of students' abilities.
- Acceleration is an inexpensive educational option.
- Resources for making decisions about acceleration are available at [www.accelerationinstitute.org](http://www.accelerationinstitute.org)

### Questions Schools Should Ask if a Student is Being Considered for Acceleration

- **Essential Question #1:** Have we assessed the student's ability correctly so that we know this child is really ready for an advanced, fast-paced curriculum?
- **Essential Question #2:** Given the results of our assessment, what might be the best form of acceleration for this student?
- **Essential Question #3:** In a few cases, acceleration has not been effective. What can we do as a school to ensure a successful acceleration of this student?

For more information and to order the report, *A Nation Empowered: Evidence Trumps the Excuses Holding Back America's Brightest Students*, visit [www.nationempowered.org](http://www.nationempowered.org)

