

# Prairie Grove CSD 46

## Individual Subject or Whole Grade Acceleration

Individual subject and/or whole grade acceleration requires high academic ability. Standardized test scores and teacher observation(s) may provide evidence that a student has mastered the current curricula and is ready for a faster-paced and/or more challenging curricula. Parents, caregivers, and teachers should note that a student's motivation and social-emotional maturity are also important factors when considering acceleration. Individual subject acceleration and whole grade acceleration requires a partnership between the school district and families.

Acceleration may not be appropriate for students with some of the following characteristics. If any of these situations are present, please speak to the building principal prior to making the request for acceleration.

1. has an older sibling in the same grade level to which the student may be accelerated;
2. is sufficiently challenged by the curriculum at his/her current grade level;
3. would be significantly less emotionally mature than typical students at the grade level to which he or she may be accelerated; or
4. student responds negatively to parent(s) about the possibility of acceleration.

### Definitions:

**Individual Subject Acceleration:** the practice of assigning a student to specific content/coursework one (1) instructional grade level higher than is typically provided, given the student's age and/or current grade level, for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in a specific content/subject area.

**Whole grade acceleration:** the practice of assigning a student to one (1) higher grade level than is typically provided, given the student's and/or current grade level, on a full-time basis for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.

### Criteria for Acceleration

#### **Individual Subject/Content Acceleration Criteria**

- Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
  - Student scoring at or above the 90th percentile on three (3) of the four (4) most recent assessment windows in a single subject or;
  - Student scoring at or above the 90th percentile on two (2) of the four (4) most recent assessment windows in a single subject with the average of the four (4) most recent assessment windows being equal to or greater than the 90th percentile.
- InView Terra Nova (CSI: Cognitive Skills Index)
  - This assessment is only administered in 2nd and 5th grade. A score that is one standard deviation above the norm will be considered for single subject acceleration.
  - This assessment may be used to replace one MAP assessment window where a student was not at or above the 90th percentile.
- An accelerated student should exhibit all or most of the following: social/emotional maturity, academic motivation and persistence; an intense interest in the specific academic area; and strong independent study skills.
- The preferred application deadline is April 1 for the following school term.

#### **Whole Grade Acceleration Criteria**

- Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)

## **Prairie Grove CSD 46**

### **Individual Subject or Whole Grade Acceleration**

- Students scoring at or above the 97th percentile on three (3) of the four (4) most recent assessment windows in more than one subject, or;
- Student scoring at or above the 97th percentile on two (2) of the four (4) most recent assessment windows in more than one subject with the average of the four (4) most recent assessment windows being equal to or greater than the 97th percentile.
- Student scoring at or above the 94th percentile on all four (4) of the four (4) most recent assessment windows in more than one subject.
- InView Terra Nova (CSI: Cognitive Skills Index)
  - This assessment is only administered in 2nd and 5th grade. A score that is one standard deviation above the norm will be considered for single subject acceleration.
  - This assessment may be used to replace one MAP assessment window where a student was not at or above the 97th percentile.
- Iowa Acceleration Scale - 3 (IAS-3)
  - The IAS-3 is an instrument utilized when considering whole grade acceleration. The scores obtained by using the IAS-3 result in categories to be used only as rational guidelines for discussion, decision-making, and planning.
- An accelerated student should exhibit all or most of the following: social/emotional maturity, academic motivation and persistence; an intense interest in the specific academic area; and strong independent study skills.
- The student and parent should discuss a request for individual subject or whole grade acceleration.
- The student will submit an application and letter to the principal.
- The preferred application deadline is April 1 for the following school term.

#### **Recommendation**

1. Based on criteria above, one of the following recommendations will be made:
  - Subject acceleration will be recommended and student will progress to next grade level course.
  - No subject acceleration will be recommended, but appropriate differentiation will be planned.
  - Whole grade acceleration will be recommended and student will progress to next whole grade level.
  - No whole grade acceleration will be recommended, but appropriate differentiation will be planned.
2. The principal will notify the student, parent(s) and school personnel of its decision.
3. Acceleration plans will be evaluated annually.