



Gifted Education 102:

How to Meet Gifted Students' Needs



MANY OPTIONS

You know from Gifted 101 that acceleration means moving through the curriculum at a more rapid pace or younger age than is typical. A student might:



Enter Kindergarten or 1st grade early



Skip a grade



Move ahead in a specific subject area



Dual-enroll in high school and college



Receive curriculum compacting



Enroll in distance learning



Graduate early from high school



Participate in extracurricular programs



Take AP, IB, and/or honors courses



ACCELERATIONINSTITUTE.ORG

Visit the Acceleration Institute website (1) for an extensive list of the various types of acceleration.

It's important to note that the policies and culture of many schools may resist acceleration, **despite the research supporting it** (see nationempowered.org).

Creating an acceleration policy is a **crucial first step** to ensuring all students have access to curriculum that fits their needs.

Check out the free publication, **Developing Academic Acceleration Policies**, new from the Belin-Blank Center and NAGC!



A CLOSER LOOK

Let's take a closer look at some of the many options for challenging bright students.



GRADE-SKIPPING

- Students may move ahead to a higher grade or enter kindergarten, 1st grade, or college early.
- One of the tools used to help make an informed decision about grade skipping is the **Iowa Acceleration Scale** (IAS).⁽³⁾
- The IAS assists educators and parents in making decisions about a grade skip or early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.



DISTANCE LEARNING

- Students receive instruction in a manner that does not require them to be on-site in a traditional classroom.
- Courses may take place online or by mail and offer opportunities not available in the local school.
- Visit the **Acceleration Institute** website⁽²⁾ for a list of these opportunities.



COMPETITIONS

- Many academic competitions are available to academically talented students. Some do not require travel.
- They allow students to polish their skills in a specific area, meet other like-minded students, and receive recognition.
- Visit the **Acceleration Institute** website⁽²⁾ for a list of competitions.



DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Students take a course at one level and receive concurrent credit for a parallel course at a higher level.
- For example, a student may take algebra at the middle school, and earn credit at both the middle school and high school level.



ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

- Offer college-level work to students before they graduate from high school.
- Provide students with challenging work for which they also may earn college credit.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)

- A specialized, academically challenging educational program offered at authorized schools.⁽⁴⁾
- Students participating in this program may receive advanced standing at selected universities.

Want to learn more about **acceleration** and meeting the needs of high-ability students?
Visit **accelerationinstitute.org**

Or become qualified to teach **AP courses** (and others!) at the AP Teacher Training Institute.
Visit **belinblank.org/aptti**

Sources and Useful Links:

- http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Resources/acceleration_types.aspx
- http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Nation_Empowered/NE_Vol2_AppendixE.pdf
- <https://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Resources/IAS.aspx>
- <http://www.ibo.org/>