



## Grade Level Acceleration (Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Philosophy

Natomas Charter School (NCS) is committed to the success of each student through its Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). To this end, NCS follows a Student Success Team (SST) process to establish and implement student achievement and intervention strategies in a timely manner. In rare circumstances, it may be necessary to accelerate or advance a student to a higher grade level in order to best serve the student's academic and social/emotional needs. This policy provides guidance to the Coordinator of each elementary and middle school academy on the acceleration of students who far exceed grade level standards and expectations:

### I. Criteria

- A. Criteria for a student's accelerated promotion will be objectively based on the following data:
  1. Scores of "Standard Exceeded" in Math and Reading/ELA on prior and current year state testing (if applicable)
  2. School attendance (three (3) or less days of absence per academic year)
  3. I-Ready, San Diego Quick, Ekwall/BPST assessments and benchmark assessments in class
  4. Private individual IQ testing and individual academic testing performed in the past three years, provided by the parent (including but not limited to the most recent WISC and WIAT tests, or WJ-III cognitive and achievement testing)
  5. Adviser/Teacher/Parent observation
  6. Portfolio of work samples
  7. Iowa Acceleration Scale
- B. For students with disabilities, the determination of the appropriate standards for promotion and retention should be made as part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process and in accordance with all applicable laws.



## II. Required Steps and Procedures Preceding Acceleration/Promotion Decision

- A. Before accelerating a student to a higher grade level, the Academy Coordinator or his/her designee will:
  - 1. Hold an SST to consider the requirements and data within the Iowa Acceleration Scale. A student will only be recommended for acceleration if the student is an “excellent candidate” based on the findings of the Iowa Acceleration Scale. Acceleration may take place at the next appropriate break in the academic year, or when space is available, at the Coordinator’s discretion.
  - 2. An acceleration SST meeting, consisting of the Academy Coordinator, an Educational Adviser, classroom teacher(s), other staff members (as deemed necessary), and the parents/guardians of the student considered for acceleration, will meet to discuss the student’s eligibility for accelerated promotion based on the criteria set forth in Section IA (above).
- B. If the SST does not reach consensus on a recommendation for acceleration, the Academy Coordinator will make the final determination based upon all information discussed at the SST meeting.
- C. When a final decision is made to accelerate (or not accelerate) a student, the parents/guardians will be notified within ten (10) working days of the acceleration SST meeting and given the reason for the decision in writing along with a copy of this policy.

## III. Right to Appeal

- A. If the parents/guardians disagree with the decision of the SST, they have the right to appeal to an Appeals Committee.
  - 1. Parents choosing to appeal a decision to promote a student must submit their request in writing to the Academy Coordinator. The request must specify the reasons why the decision should be overturned. The appeal must be submitted



no later than ten (10) working days following receipt of the determination of the grade level acceleration/promotion.

2. An Appeals Committee, appointed by the Executive Director and comprised of one Natomas Charter School teacher from an academy other than the student's, one teacher/Educational Adviser other than the student's, and the Director of Student Services, will review the appeal as well as the student's academic records and testing data in accordance with Section IA (above). The Academy Coordinator will provide evidence upon which the acceleration decision was based. The parents/guardians may also provide evidence and the reason(s) for their appeal. The Appeals Committee meeting will be held in a confidential setting. The Appeals Committee will prepare a written decision which summarizes its findings and conclusions. The Appeals Committee may not recommend that the SST or Academy Coordinator's decision be overturned unless the recommendation of the Appeals Committee is unanimous.
3. The Appeals Committee will notify the parents/guardians and Academy Coordinator of its decision in writing within ten (10) business days of the meeting.
4. The Appeals Committee decision is final as to grade level placement of the student.