

## Acceleration in Hillsboro School District

The term used in Hillsboro School District to define grade-level promotion is *acceleration*. The formal process uses the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) to determine if a student is a good candidate. It looks at cognitive ability, academic achievement, social-emotional factors, and the support level of the home and school.

After contacting parents to confirm they would like to go through the process, the TAG Coordinator, counselor, and classroom teacher typically work together to complete the IAS (copies in the Talented & Gifted department at the district office are available for schools to check out). *Teams not familiar with the acceleration process and tools should informally look at the IAS prior to contacting parents to decide if this is the correct process.*

With primary students, additional testing is often needed because we don't have academic achievement data, but this differs from school to school based on the assessment tools used. The Talented & Gifted department often helps schools determine if the assessments they use fit in the IAS or if additional testing is needed. Parents have to sign a *Permission to Test* form before any additional assessments outside of those typically administered in a specific school are given.

Once the IAS is complete, a team meeting occurs. This team adds the administrator, parents, and often the classroom teacher of the next grade level to those originally working with the IAS. The team reviews the IAS, makes any necessary adjustments to scale scores, and discusses the acceleration recommendation level. Plans for the student can be made at this time or the team can decide to gather further evidence or agree to a trial period in the accelerated grade before making a formal decision. A representative of from the Talented & Gifted department can attend if requested.

The progress of all accelerated students should be checked once or twice after acceleration by the team. Typically this is one month after initial acceleration, and then again after a more extended period of time. It is also recommended that the school counselor check in with the student about their social-emotional acclimation to the change.

Here is a link to study about acceleration that might be beneficial:

[https://my.hsd.k12.or.us/sites/OSP/tag/Shared%20Documents/Instructional%20Resources/Acceleration/Nation%20Deceived\\_v1.pdf](https://my.hsd.k12.or.us/sites/OSP/tag/Shared%20Documents/Instructional%20Resources/Acceleration/Nation%20Deceived_v1.pdf).