

Farmington Public Schools – Grade Acceleration

Starting with the 2011-12 school year, students must meet ALL of the following criteria for grade acceleration:

- **Due to the wide social, emotional, physical and academic range of students entering kindergarten, we support differentiation within this grade level. In order to provide a solid foundation of routines, academic expectations and behaviors, we believe all students benefit from this common experience. Therefore, the whole grade acceleration process begins when a student enters first grade.**
- All grade acceleration cases should be initially brought before the school committee, as would any referral for intervention, so that multiple stakeholders are participating in the process.
- Students grades 1-2
 1. 96th%ile or higher (in all tested subsets) on current grade level ITBS administered in the spring
 2. 75%ile or higher on the ITBS (in all tested subsets) for next grade level (all subjects)
 3. 96% or higher on EOY tests in available subject areas
- Students grades 3-6*
 1. 96th%ile or higher on current grade level ITBS (in all tested subsets) administered in the spring (ELA and Math only for the 10-11 administration; all subjects for following years)
 2. 75%ile or higher on the ITBS (in all tested subsets) for next grade level (all subjects)
 3. MEAP score –Level 1 top tier

If this initial data collection does NOT meet these standards, the process will stop and grade acceleration will not be considered.

4. Parent feedback forms and interviews/Consent for Individualized testing for grade acceleration. Parent feed back form is attached. This is the form we have used in the past, and it is also supported nationally by gifted and talented programs.

5. IQ/Individual Achievement testing (sample tests used are the Woodcock or the KTEA-II) The IOWA grade acceleration rating scale** requires a minimum IQ score of 115, which is the top of the average range, but our target for acceleration in line with our initial data criteria should be between 125-130.

6. **IOWA Rating Scale—This scale is a grade acceleration scale that has been used in our district to inform grade acceleration for a number of years. It is the scale that most gifted and talented programs use to determine whether or not grade acceleration is appropriate. It is a questionnaire that is completed as a group which includes teacher, assessment data and parents. It looks at factors about the whole student which have been identified through research as being highly correlated with successful whole grade promotion. While it includes test results, it also asks about the student's social skills, birth order with siblings, activities in and out of school, etc. The resulting score makes a prediction about whether the student looks like a good candidate for acceleration.

* For new students entering FPS, all acceleration evaluation will be done by the end of the first trimester. Any considerations for acceleration past the first trimester will wait until the next screening cycle in the spring of that academic year.