

Iowa City Community School District  
Junior High to High School Acceleration Process

The Iowa City Community School District provides an enriched curriculum for junior high students. Acceleration of one grade level should be considered for only extremely talented students. It should be noted that grade acceleration impacts the student's academic future in all subsequent grades and is not action to be taken lightly.

The profile of a strong acceleration candidate includes:

- Iowa Assessment Core or Composite score at or above the 97th National Percentile Rank (NPR)
- A Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) standard age Composite score at or above the 97th percentile (administered by ELP personnel)
- Other standardized assessments, if available
- Grades at or near 4.0 GPA
- Scores that are consistently well above class average on daily work and assessments
- Social maturity
- Emotional maturity
- Exemplary work and study habits
- Motivation to do challenging work

Step 1

Parent/guardian presents written academic acceleration request to junior high principal.

Step 2

Principal informs senior high principal and ELP coordinator of request.

Step 3

Junior High Principal reviews assessment data and determines whether to continue acceleration process. Data may include standardized assessments, grades, information forms completed by parent/guardian and teacher(s), and any other relevant information. Principal informs parent/guardian and ELP coordinator of decision.

Step 4

If acceleration assessment process continues, conduct a fact-to-face meeting with the following individuals:

- Junior High Principal
- An administrator or guidance counselor from high school. ELP coordinator and acceleration candidate's teachers may be included.
- Parent/guardian
- Student

Discuss the ramifications of acceleration to high school and expectations for the student.

Step 5

Following the meeting, junior high principal or ELP coordinator writes a summary report with assessment information, notes from the face-to-face meeting, and recommendation. The final decision regarding whole grade acceleration rests with the building principal(s). Report is placed in student's cumulative folder. If acceleration is approved, report is signed by parent/guardian and principal. Proceed with registration for the student. The acceleration will be monitored at the first five and ten week intervals before it becomes a permanent placement for the student.