

STUDENT PERSONNEL
Series 500

Policy Title: GRADE LEVEL ACCELERATION K-8

Code 507.1

It is the policy of the Lapwai School District that students shall generally be promoted with their age groups. Teachers are urged to utilize methods and materials of instruction which broaden the interests and achievements of those students who are academically advanced and rely on acceleration only in an extraordinary situation. Students in grades K-8 may be accelerated to another grade if the following conditions are met:

1. The parents or guardians and the student request/approve acceleration.
2. The principal and teacher(s) from the current school agree that acceleration is in the student's best interest.
3. Current classroom performance demonstrates mastery of current grade level standards in all subjects.
4. The social and emotional development of the student would not be harmed by the acceleration.
5. The student's attendance to school averages 95% or higher during the current calendar year.
6. If the acceleration requires a building change, the receiving school must be included in the process.

Should consideration be given for accelerating a student, the following characteristics may be considered: level of academic success, achievement testing data, learning potential, age, physical size, sibling in proposed grade, self-esteem, maturity, emotional stability, attendance, physical health, grade level expectations, teacher recommendations and feedback from the student and parent/guardian.

- A. The person requesting acceleration consideration should present their request and reasoning in the form of a letter to the building principal who will inform the evaluation committee.
- B. The grade level acceleration request will be evaluated by an evaluation committee comprised of school administrators, current teacher(s) of the student, teacher(s) at the grade level to which the student may be accelerated, and the school psychologist. The committee may consult with parents/guardians and the student. The committee shall be responsible for the final decision and will provide a written explanation of their decision to the person that made the request to accelerate the student. The written decision shall become a part of the student's permanent file.

C. Content-based acceleration may also be considered by the evaluation committee. These strategies provide students with advanced content, skills, or understandings before the expected age or grade level. In content-based acceleration students may remain with peers of the same age and grade for most of the school day yet for certain subject(s) be advanced to higher grade for that content. Content-based acceleration may also refer to allowing a student to work on higher grade-level instruction in their regular classroom in lieu of grade-level instruction.

Adopted: 3/19/2019