

Grade Acceleration Administrative Procedure and Criteria

St. Catherine Elementary School will allow grade acceleration providing that the following process and criteria is met:

1. The parent initiates the request with the principal by April 1. Parents will submit a letter stating their desire for their child to skip a grade along with an initial nonrefundable fee of \$50. Parents are also asked to attach supporting documents that will aid in the evaluation process such as IQ testing, assessments, teacher recommendation, or enrichment activities.
2. The elementary school principal will arrange a meeting with himself/herself, the parent(s), the student's applicable teacher(s), and the school counselor. The purpose of the meeting will be to gather data regarding the student's current achievement and abilities as stated in the acceleration criteria listed below.
3. It may be necessary to request further testing in order to make a decision. The parent is responsible for any additional costs incurred in this process.
4. After all the necessary data has been collected the Acceleration Committee (principal, psychologist/counselor, and appointed educators) will meet to determine the collective findings and to make a decision regarding the request for grade acceleration.
5. The following will be factors involved in the determination:
 1. A comprehensive psychological evaluation of the child's intellectual functioning, academic skill levels, and social-emotional adjustments is given by a psychologist (appointed and/or approved by the school).
 2. The child should have an IQ of 128 or a level of mental development above the mean for the grade he or she desires to enter. The child scores in the 96% percentile or two or more years above grade level in both reading and mathematics.
 3. The child will complete the *Iowa Accelerated Scale* assessment. Data of previous class performance indicates high performance levels.
 4. Maturity evidenced by ability for independent work. Commitment of parent, student, and involved stakeholders is present. Other factors would be the student's birth date, extracurricular activities, and student composition and size of the potential class.
6. The principal will provide a written statement to the parents of the committee's decision. The determination of the Acceleration Committee and principal will be final.
7. If the student meets the criteria set by St. Catherine Elementary School, it will be necessary for the student to complete a six-week trial enrollment period to demonstrate identified grade level competencies.