

## Q & A's About Acceleration Policy Guidance 2019 – Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

### **Q-1 I read about the new MDE Guidelines for Acceleration Policy Wording Guidance. Why is this important? Does this mean all MI schools will accelerate students at all levels?**

A-1 The new June 2019 Acceleration Guidance wording at the Michigan Department of Education is VERY important for MI students and parents. For over 10 years, there has been NO wording, NO funding, nor has there been anyone in a MDE Gifted and Talented paid position since 2003. Now we have wording and a MDE contact who can answer questions! This is not a mandate, but it serves as a concrete tool to guide policy makers, school administrators, and educators to create or modify policies at the state and/or local levels.

### **Q-2 What does “acceleration” mean? What types of acceleration are available?**

A-2 Acceleration is “progress through an educational program at rates faster or ages younger than conventional practice.” There are two kinds of acceleration:

- *Grade-Based Acceleration*
  - Early Entrance (starting school early)
  - Whole Grade Acceleration (“skipping a grade”)
- *Content-Based Acceleration*
  - Single Subject (student is moved into a higher-level class for a single subject)
  - Curriculum Compacting
  - Dual-Enrollment (student is enrolled in both high school and college)
  - Testing Out (student takes test to show mastery of course content and receives waiver for course or course credit)
  - Advanced Placement/IB-International Baccalaureate (high school coursework that transfers to college credit if student earns a certain score)

### **Q-3 Do schools need to follow these guidelines now that they are published?**

A-3 Michigan Schools are NOT mandated by law to follow these guidelines, but the wording is there for all to use, and Eric Lipinski at the MDE is available for questions: [lipinski@michigan.gov](mailto:lipinski@michigan.gov)

### **Q-4 What processes will schools use to accelerate students? How can parents ask for a referral?**

A-4 All schools should have an acceleration policy. Please ask if your school has one; if they do not, please refer to the MDE Guidelines and the website: <http://www.accelerationinstitute.org> (which includes a PowerPoint Presentation on acceleration) and “Developing Academic Acceleration Policies” by Shoplik, Behrens, & Assouline

The *Iowa Acceleration Scale, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (see attached “Acceleration Resources”) is an excellent evaluation tool for schools to determine readiness for acceleration.

NUMATS (Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search) CTD (Center for Talent Development) offers out-of-grade level testing to help get a referral at your school.

### **Q-5 How do the Acceleration Guidelines fit in with the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Support System) Program in my child’s school?**

A-5 Gifted and talented student needs are included in the MTSS for every component in the MTSS framework. In addition, there is a specific section in the MTSS FAQ sheet about gifted and talented. In the next version, the acceleration guidelines website links will be added to the FAQ sheet as well.