How do I know if an acceleration request is appropriate?

Grade acceleration is appropriate only when a child’s academic needs cannot be met with appropriate differentiation at his/her current grade level.

How is an acceleration request initiated?

A child must be registered and attending a Cobb County School before any acceleration request can be considered. A parent may complete a “Request for Consideration of Acceleration” at the local school. The principal will review available data, and if evidence warrants, the principal will recommend the need for further testing.

How long does this process take?

The process takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete. The Acceleration process requires the administration of three assessments: mental ability, aptitude and achievement as well as the completion of the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS). No preparation is needed for this testing. All testing is done at the local school. (See below for an explanation of these assessments.)

How will I receive the results of this process?

At the conclusion of the process, the school will schedule a conference with the parents to review all data and determine appropriate placement.

Assessment Information

Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) is a tool that identifies academic and developmental readiness, interpersonal skills, and parent and school attitude and support.

Note: 4 critical items are cited. If any of these apply, grade acceleration will not be considered.

1. The student does not have an assessed mental abilities score of 115 or higher. A score of 120 is preferred.
2. The student would be accelerated into the same grade as (or a higher grade than) an older sibling, or the student currently has a sibling in the same grade.
3. The student indicates that s/he does not want to be whole-grade accelerated.
4. The student does not earn a minimum of 10 points on the Academic Ability, Aptitude and Achievement Subscale Score of IAS.
Q & A

The Acceleration Process

Ability tests evaluate a student’s general ability to succeed in a school setting. This test is scheduled through the Special Student Services Department and administered by a trained psychometrist. It generally takes about one hour. The Advanced Learning Programs department submits requests for mental abilities testing, but tests are scheduled by the Special Student Services as dates are available on their testing calendar.

Aptitude tests indicate a student’s potential to learn new material in a specific subject. The aptitude assessment is an achievement test that is 2 years above grade level. This test is divided into four subtests, and is usually administered one hour per day on four different days.

Achievement tests represent the degree to which students have learned specific subject matter on grade level. This test is divided into four subtests, and is usually administered one hour per day on four different days.