

ACCELERATION

November 8, 2014

Dr. Shirley Curl, Gifted Education Adviser

**Based on a presentation developed by
Cheryl Everett and Tanya Morret**

Tom Corbett, Governor

**Dr. Carolyn Dumaesq,
Secretary of Education**



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Governor

Dr. Carolyn Dumesq
Acting Secretary of
Education

What is acceleration?

- The practice of presenting curriculum content earlier or at a faster pace.
 - Individualized change of pace, content, or environment that is out of grade level
 - Advanced course material

Acceleration gives precocious students a chance to proceed through curriculum at a more rapid pace than age level peers with more average aptitude.

Van Tassel-Baska, 2005



Effect Size

The number of grade equivalent months of additional achievement one group makes beyond the expected one year's gain designed into an achievement test.

- An effect size of $.30 = 3$ grade equivalent months of achievement a treatment group made that their equivalent control group did not.
- Effect sizes of $.30$ or higher are considered a “substantial” gain.
 - Approximately 15 months progress in 12 months' time.

Types and Impacts of Gifted Service Options

Early entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade (ES= .50)

Compacted Curriculum (ES= .83)

Single subject (ES=0.6)

Dual enrollment on college campus/college credit in high school

Talent search programs

Correspondence courses, independent study, distance learning (ES=0)

AP Courses (ES= .27)

IB Program

Mentorships (ES= 0.57 in specific subject area)

Post-secondary option

ES= Effect sizes- Rogers (2002)

Social/Emotional Effects

Mentorships

- Socialization (ES= .47)
- Self-esteem (ES= .42)



Additional Acceleration Options & Effects

Early admission to college (ES= .30)

Grade skipping (ES= .49)

Non-grade classes (ES= .38)

Multi-grade classes (ES= .45)

Grade telescoping (ES=.40)

Testing out (ES=.60)



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What the research says:

Research shows that acceleration benefits many highly capable individuals by better motivating them toward schooling, enhancing their involvement in activities, preparing them to begin contributing to society at an earlier age.



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Characteristics of Gifted Accelerants

- Able to manipulate abstract symbol systems better than average age mates
- Able to learn complex new skills and process large amounts of information at faster rates
- Many are early readers; 2-6 years above age level peers
- Upper 2% of general population of measured intelligence
 - 2 years of acceleration- IQ of 130/135 or above



Biggest Obstacle = Inflexibility

- Younger students placed in advanced level courses
- Credit, placement and/or both for courses completed outside of school program
- Ability to substitute courses for required courses
- College credit and high school credits earned simultaneously
- Flexible time for demonstrating proficiency
- Opportunities to explore specific topics of interest



Acceleration Myths

Misfits

Controlled learning

Enrichment is better

Early exposure

Age mates



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When to consider acceleration...

- Dearth of new skills and knowledge being presented
- Incremental progression through repetitive series of developmental skills exercises
- Gifted student rapidly gains given objectives and then has to wait for rest of class to catch up



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