

- **House Bill 7059, Acceleration Plan**

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The academic progress of all students, including those students who exceed curriculum benchmarks, remains a high priority for the school district. Per 1002.3105, Florida Statutes, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL), the district provides a plan for acceleration decisions within the district's existing Multi-Tiered System of Supports/Response to Intervention (MTSS/RtI) framework. School level Problem Solving Teams shall review assessment data at the beginning of the school year to determine which students may benefit from acceleration options. High performing students who show the need for additional enrichment and challenging curriculum options are currently placed in the appropriate classroom with differentiated instruction. If you have further questions or would like to inquire about ACCEL options, please contact the school office.



The School District of Osceola County

Acceleration Option for Students in 4th and 5th Grade

Parent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Why did I receive this notice from my child's principal?** The passage of House Bill 7197 by the Florida Legislature created a state law requiring elementary principals to notify parents of students scoring 4 or 5 on FCAT Reading or Math of this opportunity.
2. **Am I required to place my child in a virtual class?** No, the requirement is for the school to notify you of this opportunity. Your child will not be placed in a virtual course without your permission. In addition, the school administration must determine that acceleration is academically appropriate.
3. **Why must the administration determine that it is academically appropriate to accelerate my child?** If your child is placed in a virtual class, then he/she will not be enrolled in the same subject area, grade-level course. As an example, consider a 5th grader who scored a level 4 or 5 on FCAT Math. The FCAT test identifies this student as a potential candidate for acceleration because he/she performed above grade level in 4th grade math standards. Before determining that this 5th grader should be placed in 6th grade math we must also determine that he/she has mastered the 5th grade math standards. If accelerated, this student would never receive direct instruction in the 5th grade standards and success in math is dependent on mastering the standards at each grade level. Therefore, the school must be certain that the student has achieved mastery at the previous grade level (FCAT) as well as in any grade level content that would be missed as a result of acceleration.
4. **I received a letter about my 4th grader. Can I request acceleration into 5th grade virtual classes?** No, virtual classes are available at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels only. We do not have an option for 5th grade level courses through this program.

5. **Where and when will instruction take place?** Students may work on accelerated virtual school courses within the classroom during grade level instruction, in a computer lab setting or the media center. The accelerated class is taken in place of grade level courses. Students cannot be enrolled in both grade level and accelerated courses for the same subject.
6. **If my child participates in this program, who will be the teacher?** If your student takes a course through Osceola's Virtual Secondary School, then the teacher will be employed by the School District of Osceola County. Teachers of OVSS will be available to students and parents Monday through Friday 4-8p.m. excluding school holidays. If taking a Florida Virtual School course, then the teacher is employed by Florida Virtual School. Regardless of the employer, each teacher will be state-certified, fingerprinted and background checks have been completed.
7. **How will my child communicate with the teacher?** Students and parents will communicate regularly with the teacher primarily through email and phone.
8. **Can I choose to do the accelerated coursework at home with my child so he/she doesn't miss out on the grade level course?** No. The state statute requires that the student online course by part of the full-day, therefore we are prohibited in scheduling our student in a grade-level course and the online accelerated course at the same time. In other words, a 5th grader who is taking 6th grade math online is not able to be enrolled in 5th grade math on campus. You will have access to the online coursework 24 hours a day, but the student will not be permitted to remain in the grade level course taught at the school.
9. **What FCAT test will my student take if he/she is enrolled in an accelerated course?** Your student will take the FCAT tests that are required for his/her grade level. Although your student may be enrolled in a course for a higher grade level, he/she is still classified as a 4th or 5th grader and therefore will take all of the FCAT assessments for the assigned grade level.
10. **I see that courses are available through Florida Virtual School (FLVS) or Osceola Virtual Secondary School (OVSS), what is the difference?** OVSS is a franchise of FLVS. All of the courses will be same regardless of your choice of FLVS or OVSS. The significant difference is with the instructor and school calendar. OVSS teachers are employed by the School District of Osceola County and coursework must be completed by May 30, 2012. FLVS courses are taught by FLVS employed teachers and they are able to operate 12 months of the year.

11. **How do I enroll my child into a virtual course?** Please contact the guidance counselor at the school to sign up for the accelerated option. They will assist parents and students with the registration process.
12. **What if the student finds the course too difficult and wants to drop it after they have started?** The student has 28 calendar days from the time of enrollment to drop the course without penalty. After that time a grade of W/F will be assigned to the student and they must make up the course in summer school.
13. **How will promotion be impacted by enrollment in an accelerated course?** The school must consider your child's performance in the online course(s) to determine promotion. Failure to complete a course or to receiving a passing grade will have an impact on your student's promotion.

Osceola County Elementary School Acceleration Plan

Selection Criteria:

SAT-10 Subject areas > 85th percentile OR FCAT Levels 4/5 OR A/B Average OR Admin/RTI Committee Recommendation based on formative assessment data

-School wide data reviewed prior to start of school

Implement Acceleration Tier One Options:

- *Cluster/Ability Grouping
- *Differentiated Assignments
- *Curriculum Compacting
- *Self-paced Instruction
- *Telescoping Curriculum

Yes

Above Average Grades
RTI recommendation

Yes

Cumulative Subject Area Exam >85%

Implement Acceleration Tier Two Options:

- Single Subject Acceleration
- Virtual Subject Acceleration Options

Yes

Above Average Grades
RTI recommendation

Yes

Iowa Acceleration Scale
>50 points

Implement Acceleration Tier Three Options:

- Whole Grade Acceleration