

Elementary Acceleration Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

The following set of questions represents frequently asked questions about elementary acceleration in the School District of Manatee County.

Question 1: How are students placed in the elementary accelerated program?

Answer: Placement decisions for accelerated programs should be made in careful review of student performance data from a variety of sources, such as FSA, F.A.S.T. Progress Monitoring, District Benchmark Assessment, and adaptive diagnostics. Parents, educators, and administrators work together to identify an educational pathway that ensures student success.

Question 2: My child is bored in school and scores high on every test. How come he/she didn't qualify for elementary acceleration?

Answer: The elementary acceleration criteria uses a variety of student performance data and feedback to determine if a student meets the criteria to accelerate. A student's grades alone will not qualify them to accelerate in any content area.

Question 3: Will this be the only time my child can participate in the elementary acceleration program?

Answer: There are multiple opportunities to participate in acceleration. A student can accelerate in math in grades 3 and 4 in the 2022-2023 school year and in grade 5 in the 2023-2024 school year. A student can accelerate in grades 3, 4, and 5 in the 2022-2023 school year in English Language Arts.

Question 4: Is there a fixed number of students identified for the elementary accelerated programs?

Answer: No. The number of students each year who are identified to accelerate is never capped. If a student meets the criteria to accelerate, they are offered the opportunity.

Question 5: Are students who are participating in an elementary accelerated program grouped with students at a higher grade level?

Answer: No. Students in an elementary accelerated program will be with same grade level peers. For example, a grade 4 accelerated math student will learn grade 5 math content in a class with grade 4 peers.

Question 6: If a student is in an accelerated math class, will their English Language Arts class be accelerated as well?

Answer: No. The criteria for each subject are based on content specific measures. A student may meet criteria for one subject and not the other.

Question 7: Can a student be placed in the elementary accelerated program as an out-of-county transfer?

Answer: Yes. Acceleration placement of out-of-county student transfers should be based on assessment measures that are comparable, evidence high achievement and substantiated through future district/state progress monitoring.

Question 8: Will students retained in grade 3 be able to participate in elementary acceleration?

Answer: Yes. All retained grade 3 students will be able to participate in grade 3 acceleration in mathematics.