

## 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.