Louisa-Muscatine Acceleration Procedure Summary

The Louisa-Muscatine School District is fully committed to excellence and equity for all students, and we believe that the best way to achieve these goals is through differentiated educational opportunities, resources, and encouragement for all students. Acceleration adjusts the pace of instruction to the student's capabilities and provides an appropriate level of challenge.

Referral and Screening Process

Initiation

The *needs of the student* should dictate when acceleration decisions are considered. Students to be considered for academic acceleration can be referred using the district Nomination Form. The referral can be made by the student, parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, or other sources. *Referral for acceleration is a separate process from referral to a school's gifted program.*

The screening procedure will be applied equitably and systematically to all referred students. Louisa-Muscatine Schools will not discriminate in educational activities on the basis of: race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity (Code 102.E2). In addition, the TAG program and services will not discriminate against students with differing English language proficiency.

Initial Acceleration Committee Meeting

The acceleration team will include representatives of the school and family and may include, but are not limited to, parents/guardians, student, building administrator, classroom teacher, TAG teacher, counselor, and other support staff. During this meeting, the TAG Coordinator will proceed through the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) and discuss data collected on the nomination form. If deemed appropriate, acceleration options including both whole-grade and content-based options will be discussed and evaluated by the committee. Members of the committee will discuss further data collection needs prior to the Determination of Services Meeting (see below).

Data Collection

The Student Acceleration Committee will plan for collection of data to supplement the IAS. This may include the following: assessments of ability, assessments of aptitude, student interviews, parent/guardian interviews, teacher ratings/checklists, student portfolio/work review, and screening of other critical factors affecting acceleration.

Determination of Services Meeting

The Student Acceleration Committee will reconvene with any potential receiving teachers in attendance. Data collection will be evaluated and an action plan developed to meet the needs of the student. This action plan should include the following: determination of type of acceleration, timeline of delivery of services, timeline of follow-up meetings.

Appeal Process

If the parent/guardians or any member of the acceleration team disagree with the acceleration team recommendation, they may appeal the decision to the building principal.