

# PENN-TRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: SUBJECT ACCELERATION

ADOPTED:

REVISED: April 13, 2009

SUBJECT ACCELERATION	
1. Purpose	The Board strives to meet the learning needs of all students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to provide students with an educational program within the Learning For All Model.
2. Authority	The Board directs Administrators and Teachers to develop programs to meet the learning needs of all students.
3. Definition	<p><b>Subject Acceleration</b> is defined: as a student by-passing the usual progression of the PDE grade level standards in one subject area in grades 4-11. Once accelerated, the student will be expected to progress at the regular instructional pace in the accelerated subject area. The student will be expected to progress at or above the regular instructional pace through the remaining non-accelerated subject areas.</p> <p>This definition serves to meet the individual student’s need for subject accelerated learning and assures that the student does not develop a deficit in an important curricular skill.</p> <p><b>Subject Placement Test</b> is defined as the end of year grade level test of the subject that the student is bypassing the usual progression of the PDE Grade Level Standards in.</p> <p><b>Subject Acceleration Review Board</b> will consist of the following members: District Psychologist, School Counselor, Principal, and a Central Office Administrator.</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility	In order to provide all students with an educational program that meets their needs, the Board designates the Assistant to the Superintendent or his/her designee as the facilitator of subject acceleration opportunities for students.
5. Guidelines	<p><b><u>Step 1</u></b> Note: Consideration for student subject acceleration will only occur during the month of April of each school year preceding the student’s NEXT school year.</p> <p>If a student has needs that require subject acceleration to be granted during a month other than during the month of April of the current school year, all paperwork</p>

required in steps one, two, and three must be submitted to the Subject Acceleration Review Board along with a letter from the child's parent/guardian/surrogate explaining the rationale behind the need for the request.

In this situation, the Subject Acceleration Review Board is responsible for reviewing the student's data and making all subject acceleration recommendations. The Subject Acceleration Board's decision is final.

The Student must meet four (4) of the following five (5) criteria to be considered a candidate for taking the subject placement test:

1. Written teacher recommendation. The teacher's written recommendation must include evidence of the student's successful response to enrichment interventions.
2. Written parent/guardian recommendation.
3. Maintaining a 95% in the subject area for which acceleration is being requested during the previous four (4) report card periods.
4. Advanced subject score on PSSA in area of subject acceleration.

Grades 4 – 8 The Reading PSSA score will be used for Social Studies course subject acceleration.

Grades 9 – 11 Written recommendation of Guidance Counselor in lieu of PSSA test score.

5. Written principal recommendation.

### **Step 2**

The Student must score at least an 88% on the subject area placement test to be recommended for subject area acceleration. Failure to score an 88% on the subject area placement test will terminate any further consideration for acceleration for the current school year.

### **Step 3**

A parent/guardian must grant permission in writing for acceleration.

### **Step 4**

Any student for whom Subject Acceleration is granted is considered on probation for one grading period. During this time the student is expected to maintain at least an 85% grade. If a student fails to do this, a conference will be scheduled with the teacher, parent/guardian, principal, counselor, and student to discuss the student's placement options. If the team determines that the student needs to be reassigned to the level prior to the subject acceleration, no penalty will occur.

Instruction for subject acceleration will occur in the classroom where the actual academic course is traditionally taught to students taking that particular course.

Qualifying students in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade that have passed the subject acceleration test for Math will be afforded the same opportunity as qualifying 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to take either 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math or Pre-Algebra.

Those students desiring to continue acceleration following completion of the high school curriculum will be granted release time to pursue post-high school study if they so request. Students who wish to take a course at a local college or university for high school credit may do so with the approval of the principal. Parent/guardian/surrogate of the student would be responsible for all tuition/fees and transportation.

If a student is determined not to qualify for Subject Acceleration, a parent may appeal this decision by submitting all required documents, along with a letter explaining the rationale behind the need for the request to the Subject Acceleration Review Board. In this situation, the Subject Acceleration Review Board is responsible for reviewing the student's data and making all acceleration recommendations. The Subject Acceleration Board's decision is final.