Acceleration

Topic Overview Video (link) 📹

Why:

Academic acceleration moves students through content and/or courses earlier or more quickly than their peers based on readiness and motivation. When students are ready to learn something new but they are held from it by the pace of the general classroom, they can become disengaged and both their social-emotional well-being and academic progress can be damaged.

Instructional Implications:

- ⊘ **Ensure academic growth** for highly-able students
- ⊘ **Reduce** instructional opportunity lost to unnecessary repetition
- ⊘ Meet academic and social-emotional needs of your high ability students

Guiding Questions:

- What are the state laws or policies informing acceleration?
- What does your student data indicate about the need for acceleration?
- How can accelerated students' schedules accommodate this instructional need?
- What assessment data will inform acceleration decisions? What scores or score combinations will qualify students for acceleration?
- Will we utilize a placement committee to make final acceleration decisions?
- How will families learn about acceleration opportunities and procedures?
- How will acceleration be explained to students and how will they be supported through the transition?
- How will teachers for accelerated sections of courses be selected?

3 Best Practices:

1
Create and implement a policy to support academic acceleration

2
Use talent spotting to find students who may need acceleration

3
Schedule periodic academic progress and social-emotional well-being check-ins to support student success

Resources:

Acceleration Institute at the Belin-Blank Center (http://accelerationinstitute.org/)

Johnson, S.K., Simonds, M., & Voss, M. (2021). *Implementing evidence-based practices in gifted education: Professional learning modules on universal screening, grouping, acceleration, and equity in gifted programs*. Prufrock Press.

Acceleration Worksheet

1

What are the national, state, and local policies informing acceleration?

2

What does your student data indicate about the need for acceleration?

3

Consider opportunities to implement acceleration pathways.

Schedule accommodations

Placement committee

Communication to parents

Teacher selection and support