

Nova Classical Academy Whole Grade Acceleration Policy

All of the following criteria must be met before whole grade acceleration will be considered:

- 1) There must be an opening in the grade to which the child is being accelerated. If whole grade acceleration is being done in the middle of a school year for an existing student of Nova Classical Academy, there must be an opening in the grade to which the child is being accelerated. If whole grade acceleration is to be effective at the start of the next school year and is under consideration prior to the admission lottery, existing students of Nova Classical Academy who are being accelerated will be enrolled in the new grade level prior to new applicants for that grade level under the admission lottery. Students who are applying to Nova Classical Academy and requesting whole grade acceleration may only enter the lottery for one grade level. Students will not be afforded multiple chances for admission by applying at current grade level and additionally under whole grade acceleration.
- 2) Nova Classical Academy requires that any child applying for whole grade acceleration must undergo a comprehensive psychological and developmental evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist. The child must achieve a measured score in the superior range (i.e. at least 2.0 Standard Deviations above the mean score for the assessment instrument used) on a nationally-normed standardized intellectual assessment test such as:

Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children,
Stanford-Binet Intellectual Assessment Scale (5th Edition),
Stanford-Binet, Form L-M
Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales,
Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (2nd Edition), or
Differential Ability Scales

The child must be recommended for whole grade acceleration by the psychologist. The parent/guardian is solely responsible for the cost of this evaluation. *This requirement may be waived for existing students of Nova Classical Academy upon mutual agreement of the parents and faculty of Nova Classical Academy.*

In addition, any family applying for whole grade acceleration of their child will complete the Iowa Acceleration Scale. *This requirement will not be waived for current students of Nova Classical Academy contemplating whole grade acceleration.*

- 3) The child must be physically, developmentally, socially and educationally capable of the demands and activities of the school day in the higher grade. Nova Classical Academy may ask the parent to provide physician certification for this capability.
- 4) The child must undergo a skills and developmental screening by one of the teachers in the higher grade, as well as the teacher of the grade being skipped. If the child does end up skipping a grade, they may be required by the faculty and the Head of School to do extra work outside of school to supplement any material they may miss by skipping a grade. The work becomes the responsibility of the parents and child, as agreed on by the parties involved.

Decisions for consideration for whole grade acceleration based on the satisfaction of the above requirements will be made by the Head of School, the school psychologist, and the teacher(s) involved (i.e. current grade teacher, teacher of grade being skipped, teacher of higher grade). **The decision of the Head of School is final.** *Note: All decisions for whole grade acceleration are provisional (i.e. on a trial basis). If it is later determined by the faculty and the Head of School that the whole grade acceleration is not resulting in a successful outcome, grade placement at Nova Classical Academy may need to be reconsidered.*

Parents/Guardians will be required to sign agreement to the above terms at the time they apply for Whole Grade Acceleration.