



School District of Manatee County Elementary Acceleration Guide

Overview of Elementary Acceleration

Academic acceleration provides an opportunity for students to receive robust instruction and deep engagement in Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards to enhance learning. The School District of Manatee County is committed to delivering appropriately challenging, standards-based instruction that recognizes and encourages high expectations for continuous academic growth.

Academic acceleration incorporates a variety of instructional strategies used by educators to advance a student's learning trajectory in the vertical alignment of standards from one grade level to the next. The goal of acceleration is to tailor the level and complexity of the curriculum to the ability and academic readiness of students. Acceleration is an educational option and is not guaranteed for every student. Gifted education services are separate from acceleration and are provided to identified students by the gifted resource teacher.

The Florida Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics are designed for high expectations, critical thinking, and collaboration for greater understanding of conceptual themes within and across disciplines. The Florida Department of Education has designed a model for elementary math acceleration to ensure preparation for advanced studies in middle and high school. The district model for ELA acceleration is intended to improve literacy learning for high achieving students. Acceleration will give students academically rigorous educational experiences that are intellectually fulfilling.

Acceleration Student Placement

Placement decisions for accelerated programs are made in careful review of student performance data from a variety of sources, such as 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. Acceleration placement of out-of-county student transfers should be based on comparable assessment measures and substantiated through future district/state progress monitoring.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Accelerated curriculum delivered through high-quality instruction is student-centered and standards based. Teachers will implement instructional strategies to scaffold student learning with consideration for student readiness and abilities. Professional development will be provided for all acceleration teachers throughout the school year to support instruction and curriculum guides will detail the distinct pacing of accelerated instructional materials in ELA and Mathematics for student success. Students in accelerated programs will take the grade level state and district assessments. Students will participate in grade level ACALETICS.

English Language Arts Acceleration Structure

In addition to the 90-minute ELA block, ELA acceleration will be provided for eligible students in grades 3-5. The ELA acceleration program is designed to fit within the MTSS framework and scheduled in the enrichment block. Placement will be based on multiple data points as shown in the chart below. The Curriculum Department will provide a curriculum pacing guide for teachers that will include Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for ELA taught each week, as well as other content area standards. Teachers will follow the pacing guide to ensure delivery of a consistent scope and sequence across the district. Students who experience limited academic success will receive instructional support for improvement before exiting the program. The ELA acceleration program is ungraded and not included on the report card.

English Language Arts Acceleration Instructional Materials

Junior Great Books

- Shared inquiry method of learning with high-quality texts from a range of cultures, time periods, and genres
- Close reading activities that include textual analysis, deepening thinking through discussion, and written responses to texts
- Engages all students in higher-level reading, thinking, writing, and discussion

Document-Based Questions (DBQ) Project

- Units are interdisciplinary (history, literature, civics, science, and math) and include complex text, an overarching question, a contextual background essay, and primary and secondary sources
- Teaches students about evidence-based arguments and to write coherent multi-paragraph essays
- Connects elementary social studies curriculum to middle and high school through a vertical integration

Benchmark Advance Research and Inquiry Projects

- Connect to topics being taught during core ELA block and ensure that students acquire deeper knowledge of topics and learn research skills

Criteria for ELA Placement in Acceleration Program

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Beginning of Year Placement Criteria	i-Ready Grade 2 Spring Diagnostic Overall Scale Score 590 or above AND/OR District Grade 2 ELA Quarter 4 Benchmark: Level 3 Scale Scores 310-314 All Level 4 All Level 5	Grade 3 ELA FSA: High Level 3 Scale Scores 310-314 All Level 4 All Level 5	Grade 4 ELA FSA: High Level 3 Scale Scores 320-324 All Level 4 All Level 5
During the Year Criteria for: • Exiting a student • Adding students • Students new to district	Grade 3 ELA F.A.S.T.* AND/OR District Grade 3 ELA Quarterly Benchmark*	Grade 4 ELA F.A.S.T.* AND/OR District Grade 4 ELA Quarterly Benchmark*	Grade 5 ELA F.A.S.T.* AND/OR District Grade 5 ELA Quarterly Benchmark*
Resources	Instructional materials for all acceleration classes will include Junior Great Books, Document Based Questions (DBQ) Project, and Inquiry and Research Projects from Benchmark Advance. Pacing guides by grade level will be provided to teachers from the Curriculum Department.		
Assessment	All students participating in ELA acceleration instruction will take their current grade level state assessments.		
FSA mid-level 3 may be used for placement (as needed) along with other indicators that show student readiness for acceleration.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 2 ELA Quarter 4 Benchmark Mid-Level Scale Scores 305-309 (for placement criteria in 3rd) • Grade 3 ELA FSA Mid-Level Scale Scores 305-309 (for placement criteria in 4th) • Grade 4 ELA FSA Mid-Level Scale Scores 315-319 (for placement criteria in 5th) 			

* Achievement Level Criteria TBD

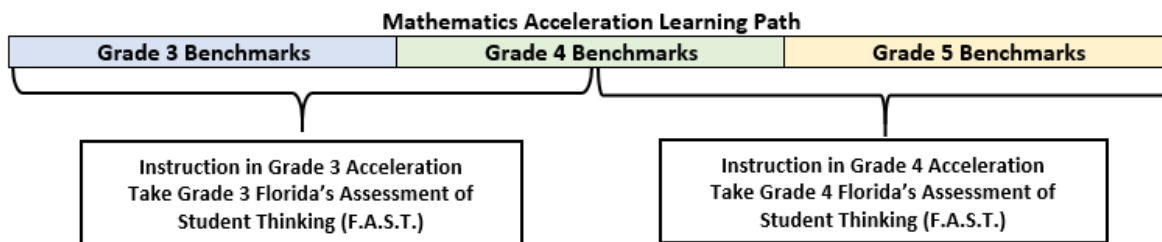
Mathematics Acceleration Structure

Math acceleration will be provided for students in grades 3 and 4 in the 2022-2023 school year and grades 3-5 in 2023-2024. Math acceleration is a designated course by the Florida Department of Education. Students in grades 3 and 4 will be placed in the math acceleration course based on multiple data points as shown in the chart below. Curriculum guides for acceleration and traditional math courses will be provided for both grade levels. Students in both grades will have an opportunity to exit and finish the year in a traditional math course at the end of Quarter 1. Students who experience limited academic success will receive instructional support for improvement before exiting the program. The math acceleration course will be graded and recorded on the report card as the core math grade.

Mathematics Accelerated Instructional Materials

enVision Florida B.E.S.T. Mathematics

- Application of real-world problems through components that support the learning and teaching of the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics
- Explore and monitor the development of number sense, fluency, and automaticity to support student learning



Criteria for Mathematics Placement in Acceleration

Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5	
Placement Criteria	Course and Assessments	Placement Criteria	Course and Assessments	Placement Criteria	Course and Assessments
Grade 2 Math Q4 Benchmark High-Level 3 (307-310) Level 4 (311-326) Level 5 (327-360) AND/OR i-Ready Grade 2 Spring Diagnostic Overall Scale Score 514 and higher	Grade 3 Math Acceleration Grade 3 F.A.S.T.* Grade 3 Acaletics	Grade 3 Math FSA High-Level 3 (307-310) Level 4 (311-326) Level 5 (327-360) AND/OR i-Ready Grade 2 Spring Diagnostic Overall Scale Score 524 and higher	Grade 4 Math Acceleration Grade 4 F.A.S.T.* Grade 4 Acaletics	Grade 5 Acceleration will begin in school year 2023-2024.	
Grade 2 Math Q4 Benchmark Mid-Level 3 (302-306) Low-level 3 (297-301) and below	Grade 3 Traditional Math Grade 3 F.A.S.T.* Grade 3 Acaletics	Grade 3 Math FSA Mid-Level 3 (302-306) Low-level 3 (297-301) and below	Grade 4 Traditional Math Grade 4 F.A.S.T.* Grade 4 Acaletics		
Deadline to exit to traditional course	Data reviewed by October 28, 2022; students transitioned by October 31, 2022 The traditional grade level course remains available for students leaving the accelerated mathematics plan.				
Resources	All courses will utilize <i>enVision Florida B.E.S.T. Mathematics</i> for coursework.				
FSA mid-level 3 may be used for placement (as needed) along with other indicators that show student readiness for acceleration.					

*Achievement Level Criteria TBD

Math Acceleration Progression

