



West Virginia Academy, Ltd.
Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2022 | 7:00pm (EST)

Attending: Susan Dull (S.Dull), John Treu (J.Treu), Heidi Treu (H.Treu), Frank Fidler (F.Fidler), Rebecca Bobincheck (R.Bobincheck).

I. Review and Approve Acceleration Policy

J.Treu notes that WVA needs an acceleration policy in order to accelerate students from one grade level to another, within a particular topics, and to provide accelerated courses. One change made to description of dates for acceleration to align policy with form.

MOTION: R.Bobincheck moves to approve WVA Acceleration Policy as amended and discussed in the meeting, seconded by F.Fidler.

DISCUSSION: none.

OUTCOME: Motion is unanimously approved.

[Final approved acceleration policy and form attached on following pages]

II. Other Business;

J.Treu discusses need for board action to permit officers to make 10 month contractual appointments for certain support and administrative staff as appropriate and as determined by the officers at the time of hiring.

Motion:

MOTION: R.Bobincheck moves to permit support and administrative staff to be set on 10 month contracts for purposes of PTO policies, on a case by case basis in the discretion of the officers. Seconded by J.Treu.

DISCUSSION: none.

OUTCOME: Motion is unanimously approved.

J.Treu notes that PCSB approved technical correction for contract to explicitly state that our organization will participate in retirement plan for employees. Also, fiscal year adjusted to end on June 30th to align with accounting cycle of the state. Staffing is

coming along with needs for one more hire in transportation, accounting, and possibly preschool/Kindergarten. Any interested parties should send their resumes into the school.

MOTION: Frank Moves to Adjourn, Seconded by Susan.

DISCUSSION: none.

OUTCOME: Motion is unanimously approved.

[Above minutes approved in regular board meeting on 11-2-22]



Academic Acceleration Policy

West Virginia Academy seeks to provide academic instruction that is appropriate for the individual level of each child as determined by the preferences of families, objective academic assessments, and the observations of academic professionals. Acceleration is the process of advancing a child's "entrance or placement" for purposes of either an individual subject or grade level (see W.Va. Code Sec. 18-8-1A(d)). Acceleration is described by rule as "[m]oving through a prescribed course of study at a faster or earlier rate." (see WV Policy 2419, 126CSR16 at 117)

I. Acceleration Process at West Virginia Academy

Acceleration at West Virginia Academy takes one of three forms: (1) Grade Level Acceleration (i.e. a child skipping an entire grade level), (2) Subject Acceleration (i.e. a child skipping a grade level with respect to an individual subject), and (3) Accelerated Learning (i.e. a child participating in a course that proceeds through a topic at a rate that exceeds the standard rate to complete the grade level requirements). This policy addresses all three types of academic acceleration at West Virginia Academy.

- 1) **Grade Level Acceleration:** Grade level acceleration for any child is permitted where a child's assessed level of understanding meets objective criteria and the child's parent/guardian provides signed informed consent so such acceleration. A child's grade level prior to any acceleration under this policy is established under the rules applicable to all West Virginia public schools, as amended, which is generally based on either the child's age as of July 1st or the most recent grade level completed by the child. In the event of any grade level acceleration under this policy, the child's parent/guardian shall complete sections I and II of the Grade Level Acceleration Form (see Exhibit A) and the student services manager (or designee) shall complete the remaining sections of the Grade Level Acceleration Form, which form shall be kept in that child's student records. The student services manager (or designee) shall complete other appropriate documentation to the extent required for purposes of officially reflecting such grade level acceleration within the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS).

a. Nursery and Primary School (Pre K to 5th Grade). A child seeking to be accelerated into grades Pre K to 6th grade whose birthday is after July 1st and before September 16th may be accelerated one grade level higher than their grade level as determined by their age if the child demonstrates proficiency in such higher grade level. For purposes of this policy with respect to accelerations of students in grades Pre K to 5th grade prior to any acceleration hereunder, "proficiency" at any particular grade level means scoring **at or above** grade level in all assessed subjects by not later than 30 days after the start of the academic year, and (ii) "mastery" at any particular grade level means scoring **above** grade level in the majority of assessed subjects and not below grade level in any assessed subject by not later than 30 days after the start of the academic year.

Assessed subjects for purposes of acceleration into Pre K include reading and math and assessed subjects for acceleration into any grade level from Kindergarten to 6th grade include reading, writing, and math. Assessments are conducted by the student services manager (or designee) and are completed using the MobyMax scoring system.

b. Secondary School (6th grade and above). Grade level acceleration is appropriate for Students in 6th grade or above where the student meets the criteria and the child's parent/guardian provides signed informed consent. The criteria for acceleration is that the student has scored on average a number 6 on their term grades for all of the four preceding terms in each of their IB courses.

- 2) **Subject Acceleration:** At West Virginia Academy we value personalization. We know that each of our scholars have unique talents, skills and abilities; some of which include mastery of certain subjects at a faster rate than their peers. For purposes of this policy, mastery in a subject matter area means scoring **above** grade level in that subject by not later than 30 days after the start of the academic year or scoring at the next grade level at any time during the academic year, it being noted that the requirements for scoring at the next grade level will become progressively more challenging over the course of the academic year.

A student who demonstrates mastery of a subject area is eligible to accelerate in that subject. To complete a subject acceleration a student's parent/guardian must be contacted and agree to the subject acceleration; this can be done by email or in person. The student also must meet one of two criteria: (i) Teacher recommendation and approval to move into the accelerated subject; or (ii) the Student Services Manager (or designee) has assessed the student to determine they have mastered the current course and can progress to the accelerated course.

- 3) **Accelerated Learning:** For West Virginia Academy to achieve its mission, the academy teaches students at their academic level and pace of learning. This is accomplish this by consistently assessing students in a variety of ways: through verbal daily assessments, unit quizzes and tests, as well as subject assessments (i.e. MobyMax) and standardized testing. As soon as students demonstrate mastery in an academic standard, they should be accelerated to the next standard in that subject. When a student has achieved mastery in all the standards for that subject, they are accelerated to the next grade level's standards for that subject. If students have a desire to master subjects at a faster rate, whether that is through Academic Extended Courses or Mid-term Break courses, they can move up to the next level of learning for that subject area within the academic year and do not need to wait until the school year is over. This accelerated learning is available to all students who achieve mastery and this process does not require formal documentation.

II. Continuation of Prior Acceleration or Acceleration Assessments. A prior grade level acceleration assessment conducted by any West Virginia Public School District or acceleration that is already reflected in a student's WVEIS account prior to enrollment at West Virginia Academy shall be respected for purposes of enrollment at West Virginia Academy. Completion of at least one semester of school on an accelerated basis at any other school prior to enrollment at West Virginia Academy will generally constitute a basis for continuing such grade level acceleration at West Virginia Academy, unless the student lacks proficiency in the majority of assessed topics for the student's grade level. In such

instances, the student services manager shall work with the family to identify the appropriate starting grade level for the child on a case by case basis.

**Exhibit A
West Virginia Academy
Grade Level Acceleration Form**

I. Student Information		
CHILD'S NAME: _____		
CURRENT GRADE LEVEL: _____ PROPOSED ACCELERATED GRADE LEVEL: _____		
II. Parent/Guardian Consent		
<p>I _____, am the parent or legal guardian of the above-named child. I agree that a grade level acceleration as described in Section I above is appropriate for my child in all respects and that it is my belief that such acceleration is appropriate for my child academically, socially, and physically. I understand that a grade level acceleration will alter my child's grade level both with respect to West Virginia Academy as well as with respect to West Virginia Public Schools more generally. I consent to my child's grade level being adjusted within the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS).</p>		
_____ SIGNATURE		_____ DATE
_____ PARENT/GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME		
III. Objective Academic Assessment		
<input type="checkbox"/> The student's birthday is between July 1 st and September 16 th and the student has demonstrated proficiency at the accelerated level through a standardized test or IB assessment (as applicable). <input type="checkbox"/> The student has demonstrated mastery of the grade level standards through a standardize test or IB assessment (as applicable).		
IV. Description of Objective Assessment Results		
Students Services Manager Signature: _____		
V. Determination. This section to be completed by the Student Services Manager after verifying Sections I to IV above are complete and accurate.		
STUDENT INFORMATION AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT COMPLETE	<input type="radio"/> Met	<input type="radio"/> Not Met
OBJECTIVE ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT	<input type="radio"/> Met	<input type="radio"/> Not Met
GRADE LEVEL ACCELERATION APPROVED?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
DATE OF DETERMINATION		