
GRADE ACCELERATION POLICY

Sage Oak Charter Schools (“SOCS” or the “Charter School”) adopt this Grade Acceleration Policy to apply to all students requesting grade acceleration.

SOCS is committed to the success of each student. Acceleration is an academic intervention that moves students through an educational program at a rate faster or at an age that is younger than typical. The goal of acceleration is to remove any barriers that may be preventing the student from progressing at their current academic levels.

Acceleration of the academic program can happen naturally within an independent study model and doesn’t typically need to be formally reflected in the student’s assigned grade level. Therefore, a thorough evaluation of a request to accelerate will be conducted to determine if the student’s assigned grade level is serving as a barrier for them to continue progressing academically.

Please note that TK students who were not eligible for kindergarten due to the legal age cut-off requirement must finish the two-year program by completing kindergarten before being considered for acceleration. All other grade levels may request a grade-level acceleration for the student.

SOCS only reviews acceleration requests at the end of each school year, after the student has been enrolled in the school for the majority of the current school year. Rare exceptions may be made by the Director of Student Services to review an acceleration request earlier.

The Parent/guardian must submit the following to the Student Services Department by the last day of learning period 7:

1. A written request by the parent/guardian for the acceleration of a grade level
2. Explanation of why the request is being made
3. Evidence and documentation to show that the majority of the standards and academic expectations for the grade level being requested to skip have been met (this may include, but is not limited to, assignment and work records, assessment scores, work samples, and report cards). Please note that the school may request additional documentation as needed.

Teachers of students for whom a grade acceleration request has been made must review the Acceleration Internal Talking Points with the parent prior to submitting the above documentation through the Acceleration Questionnaire found in the EA/Teacher manual.

An acceleration meeting will be held after learning period 7 with the members of the acceleration team. If the parent/guardian is requesting to accelerate the student into high school then a representative from the Secondary Education Department will also be in attendance. The parent/guardian is invited to attend the beginning of the meeting to personally present their request and explain any documentation that was submitted, however, their attendance is not required. The team, minus the parent/guardian, will review the information and decide if acceleration is an appropriate determination. If the team cannot come to a consensus, then the

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Director of Student Services holds the responsibility of making the final decision. The parent/guardian will be notified via email of the decision within two school days of the acceleration meeting.

If the request has been denied, the parent/guardian has the right to appeal. If the acceleration request has been approved, then the parent/guardian must sign the Parent/Guardian Acceleration Acknowledgement Form before the student's grade level will be changed in the school database.

Right to Appeal

If the parent/guardian disagrees with the decision, they have the right to appeal to the school's Director of Student Services.

- 1) A parent/guardian choosing to appeal a denial to promote a student shall submit a request to appeal the decision to the Director of Operations and Accountability with a detailed explanation specifying the reasons why the decision should be overturned. The submission of the request to appeal must occur no later than five school days following the date the parent(s)/guardian(s) were notified via email of the denial.
- 2) The Director of Operations and Accountability shall review the appeal as well as the student's academic performance records on which the decision relied. The Director of Student Services shall be provided an opportunity to discuss records with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and team members if they deem it necessary.
- 3) The Director of Operations and Accountability will notify the parent/guardian of their decision via email within seven (7) school days of receiving the appeal request.
- 4) The Director of Operations and Accountability's decision is final.