



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Instructional Services

40 Orange Street

St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Telephone (904) 547-7626 FAX (904) 547-7633

*Linda Thomson, Ed. D.*

*Director for Instructional Services*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Principals**

**FROM: Linda Thomson, Director for Instructional Services**

**DATE: September 28, 2012**

**SUBJECT: Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)**

Academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction is required by S. 1002.3105, F.S. (ACCEL) for eligible public school students K-12. Principals are required to inform parents and students of the ACCEL options available and the eligibility requirements established by the principal and the district. In an effort to comply with the notification requirements of the statute, the following suggestions are offered for your assistance:

Post a message regarding ACCEL options on your school web page. The message could be as simple as:

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options are available. Parents who wish to consider course or grade level acceleration should review eligibility criteria and process referenced in the District Student Progression Plan <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/cs/spp> and Parent Resource Guide <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/parents/resource>.

Post a message regarding ACCEL options on the back of your first quarter report card. The message above could be used or expanded.

In a newsletter, you could use the message above or expand slightly:

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options are available and include:

- Whole grade and midyear promotion
- Subject-matter acceleration
- Virtual instruction in higher grade level subjects
- Credit Acceleration Program for secondary students to earn high school credit in courses with a state end-of-course assessment
- Early and accelerated graduation options.

Parents who wish to consider ACCEL options should review eligibility criteria and process referenced in the District Student Progression Plan <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/cs/spp> and Parent Resource Guide <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/parents/resource>.

Our intention is to provide a consistent district-wide response to this legislation. While we have no obligation to promote acceleration, we are required to inform parents of the options. Our recommendation is that acceleration options be primarily addressed through academic counseling and conferencing rather than as simply a matter of district or state policy.. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Linda Thomson or Tim Egnor. Thank you.

