
Fulton County Schools

Continuous Achievement Framework: Operational Guidelines for Instructional Leaders

Providing a Challenging
Curriculum for All
Board Policy IFD



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The purpose of this operating guideline is to provide guidance on the implementation of Fulton County Schools' (FCS) Continuous Achievement Framework. The Continuous Achievement Operating Guideline is a living document that is revised annually and includes:

1. Guidance for Determining Continuous Achievement Placement for Students in Grades K-8
2. Placement Guidelines
3. Guidance for Scheduling
4. Parent Communication Tools
5. Continuous Achievement Glossary

Policy IFD – Continuous Achievement

Fulton County Board of Education supports our vision that each child should be given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. To that end, our continuous achievement framework for advancement allows each child to progress in language arts and math at his or her appropriate instructional pace and depth, expanding and compacting the curriculum as appropriate. The framework is implemented in all elementary and middle schools and includes a process for advancement in the current grade level and an acceleration process which allows a student to advance above grade level [[Board Policy IFD](#)].

Policy IFD, Continuous Achievement provides the basis of the continuous achievement framework currently being implemented in all Fulton County Schools elementary and middle schools as a way to provide an appropriately challenging curriculum for all students in the content areas of reading/language arts and mathematics.

The on-level curriculum is aligned to state standards for the grade level to which the student is assigned. The on-level curriculum will be fully implemented and available to students in grades K-8.

Advancement beyond the on-level curriculum varies based upon the nature of the content and grade level.

Guidance for Determining Continuous Achievement Placement for Students in Grades K-8

Knowing that students vary in their rates in learning and that students exhibit mastery of concepts at different developmental periods, the Fulton County School System has established a continuous achievement framework. Student placement in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics is reviewed at the beginning of the year and the end of each semester.

Placement Guidelines

Per FCS Policy IFD, "while no child will be placed below their [assigned] grade level, there will be no artificial barrier to moving ahead." Students are accelerated when they demonstrate exceptional performance for their age-appropriate grade level and exhibit strong skills for advancing a grade level in Reading/English Language Arts and/or Math. Overall potential and aptitude demonstrated by the collective evidence of past performance and teacher feedback will be considered, with the best interest of the students in mind.

Reading/English Language Arts: Students are advanced in Grades 1 second semester and Grades 2-8 when they read half a year above grade level according to the universal screener assessments and have demonstrated the ability to master reading and writing standards at a more rapid rate than their grade-level peers. Students are accelerated in Grades K-8 when they read a year above grade level according to the universal screener assessments and have demonstrated exceptional performance for their age-appropriate grade level and exhibit strong skills in reading and writing for advancing a grade level.

Mathematics: All students in Grade K-2 are placed in an enhanced course. Students are advanced in Grades 3-8 when they have demonstrated the ability to master standards at a more rapid rate than their grade-level peers. Students are accelerated when and have demonstrated exceptional performance for their age-appropriate grade level and exhibit strong skills for advancing a grade level in mathematics.

Although the following guidelines provide screening criteria for a high percentage of mastery on a variety of assessments, overall aptitude demonstrated by the preponderance of evidence from past performance and teacher feedback will be considered, always bearing in mind what is in the best interests of the students.

Guidance for Scheduling

Per FCS Policy IFD, “teachers should teach no more than two levels of curriculum during one instructional period for reading/language arts and mathematics to the extent possible. When possible, students should be grouped with grade level peers.”

As instructional leaders build the master schedule, they should adhere to FCS Policy IFD. The intent is to ensure that within one instructional period or block a teacher is preparing and delivering instruction on no more than two curricula. Schools have several options in building their master schedule that include, but are not limited to:

- Creating homerooms that include on and advanced or advanced and accelerated students in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Creating heterogeneous homerooms based on Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics placement but re-grouping at a grade level for Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Creating a Reading/English Language Arts or Mathematics block for the school or a group of grade levels so that accelerated students can receive Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics instruction at the next grade level.

Parent Communication Tools

Instructional leaders should use the language provided in this manual in developing local communications for parents. Along with the release of revised operating guidelines, instructional leaders will receive an updated [Continuous Achievement Q & A](#) to share with parents.

Glossary for Continuous Achievement

As the revised operating guidelines are reviewed, the glossary may grow in order to provide all with a common understanding and ensure a more consistent implementation of the Continuous Achievement Framework. Suggestions for additional terminology to be defined should be submitted to Amy Barger (barger@fultonschools.org).

Acceleration

Accelerated Students: Students in grades K-8 who have been identified for an accelerated curriculum have demonstrated exceptional performance for their age appropriate grade level and exhibit strong skills for advancing a grade level.

Accelerated Mathematics: A curriculum available to students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 which consists entirely of the standards one or more years above of the assigned grade level. Following Grade 8 Math, the accelerated mathematics options require students to master the equivalent of 1.5 years of standards.

- Accelerated GSE Algebra I/Geometry A: A course of study that includes all GSE Algebra I standards and semester 1 GSE Geometry standards.
- Accelerated GSE Geometry B/Algebra II: A course of study that includes semester 2 GSE Geometry standards and all Algebra II standards.

Transportation to the feeder middle or high school may be provided for students accelerated two or more years.

Accelerated Reading/English Language Arts (K-8): A curriculum available to students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 which consists entirely of the standards one or more years above of the assigned grade level. Reading assignments for an accelerated course may include content that is considered mature for a younger student. A reading list of recommended chapter books, novels, informational texts, and digital resources should be given to parents at the beginning of the school year with the option for the parent to request an alternative but equally complex text deemed developmentally appropriate by the parent.

Advanced

Advanced Mathematics: A curriculum available to students beginning in grades 2-8. The advanced curriculum for students in grades 2-5 will consist of the second semester standards assigned for the student's grade level and first semester standards assigned for the student's next grade level. Students placed in the advanced course are half a year ahead of their grade level peers and may master standards at a more rapid rate than their age peers in order to complete 1.0 to 1.5 years of standards in one school year. In grade 6, students complete a year and a half of curriculum (6.2, 7.1, and 7.2) within the year-long course. In grades 7-8, the advanced curriculum consists of on-grade level curriculum with additional standards from the next grade level standards.

Advanced Reading/English Language Arts: A curriculum available to students beginning second semester of Grade 1 through Grade 8 which consists of the on-grade level standards and is differentiated by the inclusion of some standards from the next grade level. In the advanced course, students can expect to read or write independently and proficiently complex text beyond what is assigned in the on-grade level course.

Enhanced

Enhanced Mathematics: A curriculum available to students in grades K, 1, 2, 6 and 7 which consists of the standards required by the state for the students' assigned grade level as well as standards from the next grade level. The curriculum pacing allows for students to be on a path to Algebra I in Grade 8.

On-level

On-Level Students: Students who have been identified as ready to learn the standards for Reading/English Language Arts and/or Mathematics at the students' assigned grade level.

On-Level Mathematics: A curriculum available to all students which consists of the standards required by the state for the students' assigned grade level. Through regular assessment, students who struggle to master standards in a timely manner will be provided intervention and remediation opportunities; while those who master standards at a more rapid rate will be provided enrichment opportunities.

On-Level Reading/English Language Arts: A curriculum available to all students which consists of the standards required by the state for the students' assigned grade level. Through regular assessment, students who struggle to master standards in a timely manner will be provided intervention and remediation opportunities; while those who master standards at a more rapid rate will be provided enrichment opportunities.

Placement

Writing Diagnostic Placement Assessment: Assessment to determine if a student has mastered grade-appropriate writing standards. This is a piece of evidence used to determine if advancement and/or acceleration is appropriate in Reading/English Language Arts.

Screening: A process in which all students are screened for the possibility of advancement and/or acceleration utilizing a variety of data points.

Placement Guidelines: Student achievement factors that should be considered in determining course placement. Teachers and instructional leaders should use a preponderance of student evidence to determine the course placement that best meets the needs of the student.

Continuous Achievement Website: A website on the FCS Employee Portal that houses support resources for the consistent implementation of the Continuous Achievement Framework.

Senior Executive for Instruction: Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, Amy Barger, barger@fultonschools.org

Beginning of the Year Review

All students in grades K-8 are screened for the possibility of advancement and/or acceleration in reading and math.

- Kindergarten students are screened for the possibility of acceleration in reading and/or math.
- Students in grade 1 are considered for advancement in reading at the 18-week mark.
- Math students in grades K-1 are screened for acceleration only in math. Due to the enhanced curriculum, all students are on a path to take Algebra I in Grade 8.

MATH

Beginning of the Year Review

Math Data Points:

- Prior Georgia Milestones Assessment (GMAS): Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready National Percentile Rank (NPR): Highest score received during the spring diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the fall diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Math Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Math Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.

Math Action Steps:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Advanced: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Enhanced: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Accelerated: $\leq 99\%$ coded green
- Place in advanced math.
 - On Level: 61-99% coded green
- Place in advanced math. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: 100% coded green
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: 61-100% coded green
 - Enhanced: 61-100% coded green
- Consider further acceleration based on teacher recommendation and i-Ready grade placement.
 - Accelerated: 100% coded green

Reading

Beginning of the Year Review

Reading Data Points:

- Prior GMAS: Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the spring diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the spring diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Verbal Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Reading Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades K-1:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: < 75% coded green
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: ≥75% coded green

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades 2-8:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: ≤ 60% coded green
 - Advanced: 61-74% coded green or ≥75% coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Place in advanced.
 - On Level: 61-74% coded green or ≥75% coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
- Place in advanced. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: ≥75% coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Place in advanced. Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: ≥75% coded green and does not have a WriteScore
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: ≥75% coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate. If yes, administer the Diagnostic Placement Assessment (DPA) for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: ≥75% coded green and does not have a WriteScore

Assessing Writing

- For all students without Write Score, we will need to administer the Writing DPA.
- For students who take the writing DPA, they must get a level 3 or 4 on every bullet within the writing rubric to be advanced or accelerated.

18 Week Review

All students in grades K-8 are screened for the possibility of advancement and/or acceleration in reading and math.

- Kindergarten students are screened for the possibility of acceleration in reading and/or math and advancement in math. We do not have Kindergarten Advanced Reading.
- Math students in grades K-2 are screened for acceleration only in math. Due to the enhanced curriculum, all students are on a path to take Algebra I in Grade 8.

MATH

18 Week Review

Math Data Points:

- Prior GMAS: Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the fall diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the winter diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Math Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Math Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Unit Assessment Average: Scores $\geq 85\%$ are coded green.

Math Action Steps:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Advanced: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Enhanced: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Accelerated: $\leq 99\%$ coded green
- Place in advanced math.
 - On Level: 61-99% coded green
- Place in advanced math. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: 100% coded green
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: 61-100% coded green
 - Enhanced: 61-100% coded green
- Consider further acceleration based on teacher recommendation and i-Ready grade placement.
 - Accelerated: 100% coded green

READING

18 Week Review

Reading Data Points:

- Prior GMAS: Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the fall diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the winter diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Verbal Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Reading Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Unit Assessment Average: Scores $\geq 85\%$ are coded green.

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades K-1:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $< 75\%$ coded green
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades 2-8:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Advanced: 61-74% coded green or $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Place in advanced.
 - On Level: 61-74% coded green or $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
- Place in advanced. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Place in advanced. Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green and does not have a WriteScore
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate. If yes, administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: $\geq 75\%$ coded green and does not have a WriteScore

Assessing Writing

- For all students without Write Score, we will need to administer the Writing DPA.
- For students who take the writing DPA, they must get a level 3 or 4 on every bullet within the writing rubric to be advanced or accelerated.

36 Week Review

All students in grades K-8 are screened for the possibility of advancement and/or acceleration in reading and math.

- Kindergarten students are screened for the possibility of acceleration in reading and/or math and advancement in math. We do not have Kindergarten Advanced Reading.
- Math students in grades K-1 are screened for acceleration only in math. Due to the enhanced curriculum, all students are on a path to take Algebra I in Grade 8.

MATH

36 Week Review

Math Data Points:

- Prior GMAS: Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the fall diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the winter diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Math Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Math Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Unit Assessment Average: Scores $\geq 85\%$ are coded green.

Math Action Steps Grades K-4 and 6-8:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Advanced: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Enhanced: 0-100% coded green
 - Accelerated: $\leq 99\%$ coded green
- Place in advanced math.
 - On Level: 61-99% coded green
- Place in enhanced math. (Grade 5 Only)
 - On Level: 61-99% coded green
- Place in advanced math. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: 100% coded green
- Place in enhanced math. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate. (Grade 5 Only)
 - On Level: 100% coded green
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: 61-100% coded green
- Consider further acceleration based on teacher recommendation and i-Ready grade placement.
 - Accelerated: 100% coded green

READING

36 Week Review

Reading Data Points:

- Prior GMAS: Spring GMAS Math Level for grades 4 and 5 only. Scores of 3 and 4 are coded green.
- Prior i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the fall diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, it is because the student did not take the i-Ready diagnostic during the stated window.
- Current i-Ready NPR: Highest score received during the winter diagnostic window. Scores from 85-99 are coded green. If the score is blank, the student has not yet taken the i-Ready diagnostic.
- Gifted Testing: Verbal Mental Ability. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Gifted Testing: Reaching Achievement. The Gifted testing results are restricted to the last two years. Scores from 85-99 are coded green.
- Unit Assessment Average: Scores $\geq 85\%$ are coded green.

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades K:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $< 75\%$ coded green
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green

Reading/ELA Action Steps Grades 1-8:

- Continue with current placement.
 - On Level: $\leq 60\%$ coded green
 - Advanced: 61-74% coded green or $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
 - Accelerated: 0-100% coded green
- Place in advanced.
 - On Level: 61-74% coded green or $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 0-5
- Place in advanced. Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Place in advanced. Administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - On Level: $\geq 75\%$ coded green and does not have a WriteScore
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: $\geq 75\%$ coded green with a WriteScore of 6-7
- Review i-Ready grade placement to determine if acceleration is appropriate. If yes, administer the DPA for WRITING to determine if acceleration is appropriate.
 - Advanced: $\geq 75\%$ coded green and does not have a WriteScore

Assessing Writing

- For all students without Write Score, we will need to administer the Writing DPA.
- For students who take the writing DPA, they must get a level 3 or 4 on every bullet within the writing rubric to be advanced or accelerated.