

# Karl G. maeser preparatory Academy

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Approved September 8, 2015

Grade Acceleration & Early Graduation Policy & Protocol

**Definition:**

Grade Acceleration: The practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level than is typical given the student’s age on a full-time basis for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities. This means matching the level, complexity, and pace of curriculum to the readiness and motivation of the student.

Example:

• After completing the seventh grade year, a student is placed in a ninth grade classroom (rather than an eighth grade classroom) on a full-time basis at the beginning of the next school year.

**Application Procedure:**

1. Application (available in the counseling offices)
   1. An Application to Advance a Grade (and all accompanying documentation) must be submitted no later than the last day of school, of the academic year preceding the school year they want to advance.
   2. In addition to the application itself, the following documentation must be submitted:
      1. Written recommendation from one or more teachers from the student’s current (as of time of application) school.
      2. Written recommendation from a school counselor and/or principal from the student’s current (as of time of application) school.
      3. Student essay on “Why I want to advance a grade.”
      4. Math placement test, administered by Maeser
      5. School records, including any pertinent standardized test results.
2. Evaluation committee
   1. The evaluation committee will include the Director (*ex officio*) the appropriate Dean of Students (Dean of HS for students accelerating into grades 9-12; Dean of MS for grades 7-8), the appropriate counselor (assigned according to last name), department chairs from core subjects (Math, Science, Socratic Seminar)
3. **Evaluation Process:**
   1. The committee will consider all information and material provided with the application, and may, at its discretion, consult with Maeser teachers or Administration. The committee’s goal is to ensure that the student’s academic and social abilities will be sufficient for the grade level to which they are advancing, and that advancing the student will be in that student’s educational best interest.
   2. The committee will provide a recommendation to the Director whether or not to advance the student.
   3. The Director then approves the decision of the evaluation committee.
   4. The counselor will notify the parent(s) of the decision
4. **Implementation:**
   1. After the decision for advancement has been approved, the counselor, with input from the evaluation committee, the student, and the student’s parent/guardian, will develop an appropriate class schedule that meets all state and Maeser requirements.