



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN  
(GRADES K-5)

2016-2017

Required Public Notice [[FS 1008.25\(8\)](#)]

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida will publish annually in the local newspaper, and report in writing to the Florida State Board of Education the following information on the prior school year:

- The provision of [[FS1008.25\(8\)\(b\)](#)] relating to public school student progression and the district school board's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion.
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students in grades 3 through 10 performing at Levels 1 and 2 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.
- By grade, the number and percentage of students retained in kindergarten through 10.
- Information on the total number of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause as specified in paragraph (6)(b).
- Any revisions to the district board's policy on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

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## PREFACE

The Student Progression Plan is designed to support the philosophy and goals of the School Board of Sarasota County, Florida. The plan recognizes that students have unique characteristics, needs and learning styles. It addresses a number of areas including student progression, remediation alternatives, retention, assessment, and placement in special and alternative programs.

All School Board of Sarasota County Curriculum objectives are aligned with the Florida Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Proficiency in English Language Arts, mathematics and science is measured by the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), district assessments and classroom assessments. Each school offers instruction that reflects the Standards in K-12 English Language Arts, mathematics, science/health, social studies, physical education and the arts.

## I. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND PLACEMENT

### A. Kindergarten [[FS 1003.21\(2\)](#)]

1. Students must be five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year. Parents/guardians must have documentation of the following:
  - a. Evidence of child's date of birth.
  - b. Evidence that the parent/guardian are legal residents of the school's attendance area or have district-approved registration through School Choice procedures.
  - c. Evidence of immunizations.
  - d. Evidence of a medical examination completed within the last twelve months.

### B. First Grade [[FS 1003.21\(2\)\(b\)](#)]

1. Prior to placement in first grade, students are required to:
  - a. Be six years of age on or before September 1 of the school year, and
  - b. Have successfully completed a public school kindergarten program, or who otherwise meets the criteria through ACCEL (See section XII)
  - c. Have satisfactorily completed a non-public kindergarten program and provide evidence such as a report card or letter by the administrator of the school, certifying satisfactory completion of a kindergarten program.

### C. Transfers from Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Schools

1. Students who transfer from an out-of-state or out-of-country school must meet age requirements for admission to Florida public schools. The grade placement shall be age appropriate for English Language Learner (ELL)/ Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.
2. Students who transfer from an out-of-state school/country who met the age requirements in that state/country may be admitted if parent/guardians provide documentation of:
  - a. Status as legal residency in Florida at the time of their child's enrollment.
  - b. Child's date of birth.
  - c. A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child.
  - d. Immunization.
  - e. A medical examination completed within the last twelve months.
  - f. An official transcript or letter from school authorities which shows a record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student.

### D. Transfers from K-5 Home Education and Private Schools

When a student who meets legal age requirements transfers from a home education or private school, the principal is responsible for appropriate grade level/program placement. Placement in the same grade as that recommended by the former school is not automatic. Student performance during the first quarter of enrollment will also be

considered. A placement decision may be made in consultation with teachers, other appropriate staff members, and parents/guardians.

E. Screening Activities for All New Enrollees

1. Kindergarten students will participate in the FLKRS upon entry into kindergarten within 30 instructional days.
2. Students may also participate in additional screening activities in order to assist with grade level placement. Screening may include, but is not limited to, the following measures and observations of:
  - a. Academic performance/concept development
  - b. Communication competence
  - c. Social/emotional behavior
  - d. Health and physical development
  - e. Home language
  - f. English language proficiency assessment
  - g. Previous academic records

II. PROMOTION

Promotion to the next higher-grade level should be based upon the following factors:

- A. Adequate progress in English Language Arts, **with the exception of Grade 3\***, mathematics, science, and social studies as demonstrated by student performance as measured by the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), State Science Assessment (SSA, grade 5), and/or district/classroom assessments. Other measures of adequate progress may include, but not be limited to: standardized assessments, classroom performance assessments, performance tasks, computer assisted instruction, reading comprehension level, etc.

B. In accordance with [[FS 1008.25](#)], specific levels of adequate progress in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies can also be defined for grades kindergarten through five:

| Grade Level | English Language Arts   | Mathematics  | Science                             | Social Studies                          |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| K           | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3- Scale Score in Mid-Late Kindergarten Range (396-479)  | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3–Scale Score in Mid-Late Kindergarten Range (376-454)  | Science FUSION Unit Benchmark Tests | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |
| 1           | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale-Score in Mid-Late First Grade Range (458-536)  | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late First Grade Range (416-496)   | Science FUSION Unit Benchmark Tests | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |
| 2           | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Second Grade Range (516-560)   | i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Second Grade Range (446-506)  | Science FUSION Unit Benchmark Tests | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |
| 3           | *Level 2 or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br>Or qualify for a Good Cause exemption   | meeting or exceeding proficiency on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br><br>i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Third Grade Range (467-516)       | Science FUSION Unit Benchmark Tests | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |
| 4           | meeting or exceeding proficiency on the ELA Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br><br>i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Fourth Grade Range (579-629) | meeting or exceeding proficiency on the Math Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br><br>i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Fourth Grade Range (484-526) | Science FUSION Unit Benchmark Tests | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |
| 5           | meeting or exceeding proficiency on the ELA Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br><br>i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Fifth Grade Range (609-640)  | meeting or exceeding proficiency on the Math Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)<br><br>i-Ready Diagnostic AP3-Scale Score in Mid-Late Fifth Grade Range (498-540)  | State Science Assessment (SSA)      | Mid-End of Year Performance Assessments |

**\* For grade 3 only: a student cannot be promoted to grade 4 unless they score Level 2 or higher on the FSA-ELA or meet a Good Cause exemption. Students without an FSA score must also meet a Good Cause exemption to be promoted to grade 4. (see section VII).**

- C. Retention decisions will be made on a case by case basis with the principal having the final decision with the exception of grade 3\* The district school board may only exempt students from mandatory retention for good cause in grade 3.
- D. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.
- E. Students who receive a failing grade or have excessive absences may be considered for retention.
- F. No promotion or retention decision may be made for any individual student classified as ELL/LEP based solely on a score on any single assessment instrument, whether such assessment instrument is part of the statewide assessment program or of a particular district's formal assessment process. A formal retention recommendation regarding an ELL/LEP student may be made through action of an ELL/LEP committee. This committee meeting is held prior to Good Cause decision (see VIII, B.) affecting ELL/LEP students.

### III. ASSESSMENT

- A. Each student must participate in the statewide, standardized assessment program required by s. 1008.22 Each student who does not achieve a Level 3 or above on the statewide, standardized English-Language Arts assessment or the Mathematics assessment must be evaluated to determine the nature of the student's difficulty, the areas of academic need and strategies for providing academic supports to improve the student's performance [FS1008.25 (4) a].
- B. Elementary students will participate, as appropriate, in the screening, diagnostic assessment, intervention, remediation, and enrichment processes as published in the district's K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan.
- C. Students in grades K-5 will participate in regular district or classroom reading, math, writing, social studies, and science assessments.
- D. Students that exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading as determined by standardized assessments will be provided intensive reading instruction immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. The student's reading proficiency will be reassessed by locally-determined assessments or through standardized assessments at the beginning of the grade following the intensive reading instruction. Teachers will continue to implement intensive reading instruction until the reading deficiency is remediated.
- E. The classroom teachers shall allocate remedial and supplemental instruction (Tier 2 and/or Tier 3), with priority given to students who are deficient in reading by the end of grade 3. The district will provide the training and resources to ensure that teachers are implementing research based reading strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.
- F. Grade 3 students who do not meet Good Cause exemption from mandatory retention are recommended to participate in the district's summer reading camp. Students will

receive research-based reading instruction which includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Instruction will occur through whole group, small group computer assisted and individualized instruction. Students will be provided the opportunity to work on the district reading portfolio and are able to participate in the alternative assessment to meet Good Cause.

#### IV. PARENT NOTIFICATION AND PROGRESS MONITORING

A. Any time during a grading period that a student is in danger of failing, the teacher must make a documented contract with the parent by speaking with them on the phone, meeting in a conference, or sending written notification.

B. The parent/guardian of any student in grades K-3 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading will be informed that that if the student's reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of grade 3, the student must be retained unless exempt from mandatory retention for Good Cause (See section VII). Parents and guardians will be provided strategies to use in helping their child succeed.

C. Annually, the school district will report to parents/guardians in a language they understand, unless clearly not feasible [\[FAC 6A-6.0908\(2\)\]](#), the following information:

1. the progress of each student toward achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in reading and mathematics; and
2. the results on each statewide assessment test; and
3. the evaluation of each student's progress based upon classroom work, observations, tests, and other relevant information

V. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR RETENTION YEAR

- B. Students who are retained will be provided an intensive program that is different from the previous year's program which can include, but not limited to adapting to a student's learning style, change in teacher, change in delivery models, or other assistance.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENT WITH MULTIPLE RETENTIONS

- A. The district school board shall assist schools and teachers in implementing reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low performing readers.
- B. Intensive instruction for students must include an altered instructional day that utilizes specific research based reading strategies designed from diagnostic information.

VII. GRADE THREE MANDATORY RETENTION GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS  
**A student cannot be promoted to grade 4 unless they score Level 2 or higher on the FSA-ELA or meet a Good Cause exemption. Students without an FSA score must also meet a Good Cause exemption to be promoted to grade 4.**

- <sup>1</sup> Requests for Good Cause exemptions for grade 3 students from the mandatory retention shall be submitted to the school principal with appropriate documentation. The principal shall review and discuss the recommendation and make the determination as to whether the student should be promoted or retained. If the principal determines that the student meets the requirements for a Good Cause exemption and should be promoted, the principal shall make such recommendation in writing to the superintendent. The superintendent or designee shall accept or reject the principal's recommendation in writing.
- <sup>2</sup> Good Cause exemptions for grade three retentions shall be limited to the following: [\[FS1008.25\(6\)\(b\)\(1-7\)\]](#)
  - Limited English proficient students who have had less than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program based on initial date of entry into a school in the United States.
  - Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of the State Board of Education rule, s.1008.212.
  - Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading or English-Language Arts

assessment approved by the State Board of Education. Students in Sarasota County Schools take the SAT 10.

- A student who demonstrates, through a student portfolio, that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide, standardized English-Language Arts assessment. Students in Sarasota County Schools use a district developed and state approved portfolio which is aligned to the portfolio requirements of the Florida Department of Education. Teachers across our district are able to document the student's performance over time for students who may need this option. Parents may request a portfolio be started at any time. It is our district recommendation that students needing the portfolio option begin this process in January or later to provide time for instruction of grade 3 English Language Arts standards.
- Students with disabilities who take the statewide standardized English-Language Arts Assessment and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive instruction in reading or English-Language Arts for more than two years but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3.
- Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of two years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.
- Students who have received intensive remediation in reading or English-Language Arts for two or more years, but still demonstrate a deficiency and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3, for a total of two years.
- Intensive instruction for students so promoted must include an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies for each student. The district school board shall assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low performing readers.

## VIII. RETENTION WAIVERS OTHER THAN GRADE 3

- A. A team of professional staff must conduct a case review for students being considered for retention. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.
- B. The principal, with input from the school-wide support team (SWST), IEP committee, ELL/LEP committee and/or other professional staff, may waive the promotion requirements for students other than grade three students in English Language Arts by meeting any of these good cause conditions:
  - 1. Previous retention – a student who has had a prior retention.
  - 2. Alternative Programs – a student being considered for placement or currently placed in an approved special program such as ESE, dropout prevention, Section 504, or ESOL may be considered for an exemption. Good cause shall be based on documentation from an ELL/LEP, Section 504 meeting, ESE staffing or IEP review committee. The documentation must contain the recommendation and reasons for the student’s exemption.
  - 3. Attendance – a student with problems of a unique nature that causes extended absences.

## IX. MID-YEAR PROMOTION OF STUDENTS RETAINED IN GRADE THREE

- A. Any student in Grade 3 who has been retained at least once in grades K-3 may be eligible for mid-year promotion.
- B. On or before November 1, retained Grade 3 students may be recommended for promotion if they meet these criteria:

Evidence of mastery of each standard on the Grade 3 FSA English Language Arts assessment through the district portfolio. The portfolio assessments provide an accurate picture of the student’s ability and only includes student work that has been independently produced in the classroom. The district portfolio follows the guidelines established by the Florida Department of Education and has been approved by Just Read Florida!

- C. For mid-year promotion after November 1:
  - 1. Retained Grade 3 students may be recommended for mid-year promotion based on student’s mastery of third grade tested Florida Standards for English Language Arts through the district reading portfolio and beginning mastery of the Florida Standards for fourth grade consistent with the month of promotion to fourth grade. Core reading program materials as well as other progress monitoring tools maybe used to assess beginning mastery.
  - 2. These students may be recommended for promotion to Grade 4 at any time from November 1 until the last school day of the first semester.

D. For all mid-year promotions:

1. The principal will recommend mid-year promotion for all eligible students. The executive director for elementary schools will review and sign all mid-year promotion recommendations.
2. The Progress Monitoring Plan for any retained third grade student who has been promoted mid-year to fourth grade must continue to be implemented and monitored for the entire academic year.

X. PROCEDURES FOR RETAINED STUDENTS NOT PROMOTED MID-YEAR

- A. Grade 3 students who are not promoted mid-year will continue to be monitored three times annually through the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic or the FAIR-FS assessment.
- B. Students who have been retained once in grade 3 will continue to participate in a 90 minute reading block and receive additional instructional time.

XI. ACCELERATION Academic Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) A. ACCEL options 1003.4295 F.S. are educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible students. *For the majority of students, in-class differentiation provides the learning opportunities needed for advanced students to be challenged.* The school must carefully consider the effect of ACCEL options, especially mid-year and full-year promotion, on the student's future social, emotional and academic performance. A plan for the smooth transition from the student's current grade to a higher grade must be developed, as well as assurance of continuous course progression into middle and high school. **The students' commitment, desire for the program and maturity level must be considered as well as meeting the eligibility requirements.** School principals are required to inform parents and students of the available ACCEL options and the student eligibility requirements. Parent permission is necessary for ACCEL options.

## **Acceleration Options:**

**Whole Grade Promotion** – Promotion of a student occurring at the end of the school year from one grade to a grade higher than normal matriculation allows. The student will be monitored for the first four (4) weeks of the change of placement to assess progress. If acceleration is not appropriate for the student as determined by the school principal, **the student will be returned to the former placement.**

**Mid-Year Promotion** – A student remains coded in the grade level they are currently enrolled in and is placed in the next grade level for instruction. The student will be monitored every four (4) weeks of the change of placement to assess progress. If acceleration is not appropriate for the student as determined by the school principal, **the student will be returned to the former placement.** If appropriately placed, the student will be formally promoted to the next grade level mid-year.

**Subject Matter Acceleration** – A student that is placed with students at a more advanced grade level on campus for one or more subjects for a part of a day without being assigned to a higher grade. The student will be monitored every four (4) weeks of the change of placement to assess progress. If acceleration is not appropriate for the student as determined by the school principal, **the student will be returned to the former placement.** Core middle school courses (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, or Science) taken in elementary school will be used to satisfy middle school promotion criteria once the student is enrolled in middle school. The grades will become part of the middle school academic record, including failing grades, and may impact future promotion. Student schedules must reflect courses taken. **Middle school courses are accessible only through Florida Virtual School's (FLVS) Part Time Program.**

**Virtual Instruction Higher Grade-Level Subjects** - A student that is placed with students at a more advanced grade level in a virtual class for one or more subjects for a part of a day without being assigned to a higher grade. Middle school courses are accessible only through Florida Virtual School's (FLVS) Part Time Program.

**Advanced Work Class** – A student is placed with students for the entire day without being assigned to a higher grade to work on more advanced work. The program provides a uniquely differentiated curriculum and allows students the opportunity to interact with intellectually similar peers throughout the day. This approach will allow students to collaborate with other like-minded students, engage in more challenging assignments and gain confidence to express ideas in alternative ways. Students will gain opportunities to study content with a greater depth and complexity. A student's current teacher initiates the request in writing to the principal and contacts parent.

The following procedure must be followed to consider a student for any of the ACCEL options:

1. If a parent requests consideration, it must be in writing using the *Request for Elementary Acceleration* form submitted no later than May 1 (Appendix B).
2. The parent must meet with the Principal to review the request and the student's eligibility for acceleration.
3. If the request is granted, the parent and student must agree to a *Elementary Performance Contract* (Appendix C) prior to acceleration being granted.

## Criteria and Procedures

| Criteria   | Whole Grade Promotion   | Mid-Year Promotion | Subject Matter Acceleration  | Virtual Instruction Higher Grade-Level Subjects | Advanced Work Class   |
|--|---|--------------------|--|---|---|
| *K<br>** Grade 3   |   |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Deadlines for Parental and Teacher initiated Requests</b>   | Request must be submitted in writing by May 1 of the current school year using the <u>Request for Acceleration</u> form (Appendix B)  |                    | Request must be submitted in writing prior to the end of the first nine weeks of the current school year using the <u>Request for Acceleration</u> form (Appendix B) |   | Current Teacher recommendation in writing by May 1  |
| <b>Assessment Results K-2</b>  | <u>Grades K-2</u><br>95% mastery in reading <b>and</b> math on school based end of course assessments for current <b>and</b> next consecutive grade.  |                    | <u>Grades K-2</u><br>95% mastery in reading <b>or</b> math on school based end of course assessments for current grade.  |   | <u>Grades K-2</u><br>90% mastery in reading <b>and/or</b> math on school based end of course assessments for current <del>grade</del> |
| <b>Assessment Results 3-5</b>  | <u>Grades 3-5</u><br>Highest level of proficiency on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) performance in reading <b>and</b> math  |                    | <u>Grades 3-5</u><br>Highest level of proficiency on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) performance in reading <b>or</b> math                                    |   | <u>Grades 3-5</u><br>Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) performance in reading <b>and/or</b> math                                     |
| <b>Grades</b>  | <u>Grades K-1</u><br>Above Level in both ELA and Math and performance grades of 4 in subject areas requesting acceleration.<br><br><u>Grade 2-5</u><br>Above Level in both ELA and Math academic grades A's in subject/areas requesting acceleration (A's and B's will be considered for whole grade and mid-year promotion). |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Attendance</b>  | No more than 5 absences in a period of 30 days or no more than 10 absences in a period of 90 calendar days.   |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Teacher Recommendation</b>  | A written recommendation from the student's current grade level teacher(s) for promotion requested.   |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>School Counselor Recommendation</b>   | A written recommendation from the student's current school counselor for promotion requested.   |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>Principal Approval</b>  | In accordance with state statute 1012.28 (5) F.S the principal of the school is the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.  |                    |  |   |   |
| <b>District Approval</b>   | If promotion involves a change in schools, the executive directors and principals of both schools must be involved in the decision process.   |                    |  |   |   |
| * A Kindergarten student may not be considered for whole grade or mid-year promotion to first grade unless he/she meets the age requirement for entry into first grade. (6 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year). |   |                    |  |   |   |
| ** Grade 3 Mid-year promotion of retained students (See section X, page 10)  |   |                    |  |   |   |

### XIII. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

- A. The School Board of Sarasota County Curriculum for elementary students is the standards/benchmarks of the Florida State Board adopted Florida Standards in English Language Arts and mathematics and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in science/health, social studies, physical education and the arts.
- B. All teachers shall provide instruction that supports student mastery of the Florida Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards curriculum. Students in K-5 shall have regular study of mathematics, science/health, language arts, art, music, social studies and physical education. Technology skills will be taught in the above subjects. All students will be instructed using the Florida Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Social Studies and Science will continue to use the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- C. Each school will offer instruction for English Language Learners that complies with the 1990 LULAC/META Consent Decree and with the Sarasota District ELL/LEP Plan.

### XIV. STUDENT RIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTION

- A. All Sarasota School District classes shall be available to all students without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation. This is not intended to eliminate the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of students with limited proficiency in English or exceptional education students. [[FS 1000.05](#)]
- B. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services are designed to meet the communicative, academic, and social needs of English Language Learners (ELL) as defined in [[FS 1003.56](#)]. Services will be provided as outlined in the District ELL/LEP Plan. No ELL/LEP student will be retained solely due to a lack of English language proficiency.
- C. No student will be denied appropriate use of his/her primary language [[FS 1003.56](#)]. No national language minority or English Language Learner/Limited English Proficient student shall be subjected to any disciplinary action based on his/her use of a language other than English. [[FAC 6A-6.0908\(3\)](#)]
- D. Students in grades K-5 may enroll in the Sarasota Virtual School (SVS) Program. SVS is a full-time online district school for students in grades K-12. A parent must request from the Office of Choice and Charter Schools a reassignment from the districted school and meet eligibility requirements in order for the student to be admitted to SVS. Enrollment is typically allowed during open enrollment periods prior to the beginning of the academic year and at mid-year. Please see chart below.
- E. Any student who believes that he/she has been denied participation in or access to an educational program or activity, or has otherwise been discriminated against due to age, sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, handicapping condition, pregnancy, parenthood, marriage, political beliefs, social and family background, or for any other reason not related to his/her individual capabilities, may file a grievance according to the procedure established in School Board policy and published in the brochure entitled Policy Against Discrimination for Students, which may be accessed at: [http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/humres/forms/Equity\\_Book-Student.pdf](http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/humres/forms/Equity_Book-Student.pdf).

- F. Students in grades K-5 that meet eligibility criteria outlined in [[FS1002.455](#)] may access K-5 courses through Florida Virtual School.
- G. Students in grades 4 and 5 who score at the highest level of proficiency on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) reading or math and meet other criteria established in the ACCEL plan have the option to access 6<sup>th</sup> grade courses through Florida Virtual School.
- H. In cases of alleged discrimination and/or harassment, nothing in this policy shall prohibit a student, applicant for admission to an educational program or service, or parent from pursuing a grievance through the complaint and/or grievance procedures as may be established by federal and/or state statutes or regulations. No student, applicant for admission to an educational program or service, parent, or employee shall be subject to adverse action in retaliation for having filed a grievance or for having testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted under the authority of this policy.
- I. Sarasota Virtual School is completely internet based and serves students in grades K-12. Students with access to the internet can complete their course work from any location, at any hour, and for as long as they choose. Students are responsible for completing their course assignments and submitting them via email to the teacher for feedback and grading. Students earn credits through course work completion. The chart below will provide a description of the district's full time virtual program and the eligibility criteria for entering Sarasota Virtual School.

| PROGRAM NAME                      | Sarasota Virtual School (SVS)  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| PROGRAM DESCRIPTION               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SVS</b> is a <b>Full Time</b> district school.</li> <li>• <b>SVS</b> delivers online instruction through contracted Virtual Instruction Providers.</li> <li>• <b>SVS</b> operates by <b>all</b> District guidelines, policies, and procedures.</li> <li>• <b>SVS</b> follows the District’s Elementary School Student Progression Policy.</li> <li>• <b>SVS</b> students are required to follow the District’s Attendance Policy.</li> <li>• <b>SVS</b> follows the District school calendar.</li> <li>• Traditional elementary school activities such as, but not limited to, a promotion ceremony are not available.</li> <li>• Students are provided all required text books and necessary resources from the contracted Virtual Instruction Providers; all materials are shipped directly to the students’ home from the provider.</li> <li>• <u>Acceleration of grade levels</u> is not permissible.</li> <li>• Virtual Instruction Providers post grades at the end of first (mid-year) and second (end of the year) semesters; students and instructional coaches (parent/guardian) can access academic grades/progress 7 days a week 24 hours a day through the student/parent/guardian accounts that they set up with their selected Virtual Instruction Provider.</li> </ul> |
| ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA              | According to section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, students who want to enroll in <b>SVS</b> must be entering grade K-5.   |
| PROMOTION POLICY                  | <b>SVS</b> students in grades K-5 must follow the promotion guidelines identified in the Elementary Student Progression Plan in order to be promoted to the next higher grade level.   |
| STATE /LOCAL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED | K-5 students take <b>all</b> required state and district assessments identified on the District Assessment Calendar.   |
| VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROVIDERS     | <b>K-12 Florida</b> also known as <b>K-12</b> ( <a href="http://www.k12.com">www.k12.com</a> )   |

## XV. GRADING OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- A. The teacher will be the authority in assigning each student a grade.
- B. The grades reflecting achievement for academic subjects in grades 1-5 with numerical equivalents will be:

|    |   |           |                            |
|----|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| A  | = | 90 – 100% | Outstanding Progress       |
| B  | = | 80 – 89%  | Above Average Progress     |
| C  | = | 70 – 79%  | Average Progress           |
| D  | = | 60 – 69%  | Lowest Acceptable Progress |
| F  | = | 0 – 59%   | Failure                    |
| NA | = |           | Not accessed at this time  |

Grade 1 will use letter grades in quarters 2 and 4 only.

- C. Grades K and 1 will use a Performance Standards Grade Key based on student mastery of the Florida Standards. The Performance Standards Grade Key uses the following rubric:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | = | Exceeds End of Year Standard                    |
| 3 | = | Meets End of Year Standard                      |
| 2 | = | Progressing toward End of Year Standard         |
| 1 | = | Beginning demonstration of End of Year Standard |

- D. The academic grades reflecting achievement for art, music and physical education in Grades 2-5 will use the following rubric:

O = Outstanding

G= Good

S = Satisfactory

U = Unsatisfactory

An effort grade will be given each quarter with an academic grade given quarter 2 and quarter 4.

- E. For students in Resource/ESE Programs who are missing instruction in that subject a “---“ is to be used in the grading section.
- F. Evaluation of achievement will include progress toward mastery of Florida Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
- G. The academic grade represents the progress made on a student’s instructional level; it does not reflect achievement on grade level. The instructional level of the student will be indicated by the designation on, above or below. These designations will be reflected in grades 1–5 quarterly. The designation will indicate the student is working on mastery of the Florida Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards predominately for that level.

H. Student effort will be indicated by the following codes:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| E = Excellent         | Demonstrates consistent outstanding participation. Strives beyond classroom expectations with class assignments and homework. Is highly motivated and well organized. |
| G = Good              | Participates much of the time. Completes class assignments and homework. Is attentive, motivated, and organized.  |
| S = Satisfactory      | Usually participates. Completes class assignments and homework. Is attentive.   |
| N = Needs Improvement | Rarely participates. Frequently does not complete assignments or homework. Is often inattentive and poorly organized.   |

## XVI. REPORT CARDS

A. The Elementary report card subjects will be Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Art, Music and Physical Education.

Language Arts is a subject composed of the following strands:

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Speaking and Listening
4. Language

Mathematics is composed of the following domains:

1. Counting and Cardinality (Kindergarten Only)
2. Operations and Algebraic Thinking
3. Numbers and Operations
4. Measurement and Data
5. Geometry

B. Teacher comments on the report card can be generated for each subject area.

C. Responsibilities of the Learner are indicated by a yes/no.

D. The report card shall contain a narrative explanation of the grading system.

E. Report cards shall be issued quarterly through the district's parent portal. Additionally, mid-grading period notices shall be issued for students who are in danger of failing a subject.

- F. Parent-teacher conferences shall be scheduled as requested by parents and/or teachers.
  
- G. Any parent or guardian, after consulting with the teacher, may request the principal to review any grade given a student at the end of a reporting period. However, such grade may not be changed or altered by the principal unless there was an apparent error in the grade calculation. If further appeal is requested, a review panel as described in the [S.C.T.A./School Board of Sarasota County Instructional Bargaining Unit Agreement](#) shall be charged to investigate and render a binding judgment. 10/01/02 S.B. approved; rev.03/07

APPENDIX A: INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN INTERSTATE COMMISSION MEETING – Rules (Approved, Nov. 2009)

INTRODUCTION:

Upon activation of the Interstate Compact a year ago, one of the first tasks necessary for the Commission was the creation of administrative rules under which the Compact would operate. A Rules Committee was formed and over the past year, the Committee met on several occasions to develop the rules. Comments were solicited from various stakeholders and input was considered. The rules complement the Interstate Compact and may not conflict with it. In addition, the rules are not designed to address every issue arising under the Compact, however, there is flexibility to make reasonable changes or clarification as the need arises through amendment, advisory opinions, and training opportunities.

Chapter – 100 DEFINITIONS SEC. 1.101 Definitions

As used in these rules, unless the context clearly requires a different construction—

- A. “Active duty” means: full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.
- B. “By-laws” means: those by-laws established by the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for its governance, or for directing or controlling the Interstate Commission’s actions or conduct.
- C. “Children of military families” means: a school-aged child(ren), enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade, in the household of an active duty member.
- D. “Compact commissioner” means: the voting representative of each compacting state, appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact.
- E. “Days” means: business days, unless otherwise noted.

- F. "Deployment" means: the period one (1) month prior to the service members' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to their home station.
- G. "Education(al) records" means: those official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school or local education agency (LEA), including but not limited to records encompassing all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health data, disciplinary status, test protocols, and individualized education programs.
- H. "Extracurricular activities" means: a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or LEA or an organization sanctioned by the LEA. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.
- I. "Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children" means: the commission that is created under Article IX of this compact, which is generally referred to as Interstate Commission.
- J. "Local education agency" means: a public authority legally constituted by the state as an administrative agency to provide control of and direction for kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade public educational institutions.
- K. "Member state" means: a state that has enacted this compact.
- L. "Military installation" means: a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility, which is located within any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S. territory. Such term does not include any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.
- M. "Non-member state" means: a state that has not enacted this compact.
- N. "Receiving state" means: the state to which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.
- O. "Rule" means: a written statement by the Interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to Article XII of this compact that is of general applicability, implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision of the compact, or an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of statutory law in a member state, and includes the amendment, repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.
- P. "Sending state" means: the state from which a child of a military family is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought.
- Q. "State" means: a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S. territory.

- R. “Student” means: the child of a military family for whom the LEA receives public funding and who is formally enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth (12th) grade.
- S. “Transition” means: 1) the formal and physical process of transferring from school to school or 2) the period of time in which a student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in the receiving state.
- T. “Uniformed service(s)” means: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.
- U. “Veteran” means: a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

## Chapter 200 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

### SEC 2.101 Adoption of rules; Amendment

Proposed rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted by majority vote of the members of the Interstate Commission in the following manner:

- (a) Proposed new rules and amendments to existing rules shall be submitted to the Interstate Commission office for referral to the Rules Committee as follows:
  - (1) Any Commissioner may submit a proposed rule or rule amendment for referral to the Rules Committee during the annual Commission meeting. This proposal must be made in the form of a motion and approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the Commission members present at the meeting;
  - (2) Standing Committees of the Commission may propose rules or rule amendments by majority vote of that Committee;
  - (3) Any regional group of states as may be subsequently recognized by the Commission may propose rules or rules amendments by a majority vote of members of that region;
- (b) The Rules Committee shall prepare a draft of all proposed rules and provide the draft to all Commissioners for review and comments. All written comments received by the Rules Committee on proposed rules shall be posted on the Commission’s website upon receipt. Based upon the comments made by the Commissioners, the Rules Committee shall prepare a final draft of the proposed rule(s) or amendments for consideration by the Commission no later than the next annual meeting falling in an odd-numbered year.
- (c) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule by the Interstate Commission, the text of the proposed rule or amendment shall be published by the Rules Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the vote is scheduled, on the official web site of the Interstate Commission and in any other official publication that may be designated by the Interstate Commission for the publication of its rules. In addition to the text of the proposed rule or amendment, the reason for the proposed rule shall be provided.
- (d) Each administrative rule or amendment shall state—
  - (1) The place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing;
  - (2) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Interstate Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments; and
  - (3) The name, position, physical and electronic mail address, telephone, and telefax number of the person to whom interested persons may respond with notice of their attendance and written comments.

- (e) Every public hearing shall be conducted in a manner guaranteeing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment. No transcript of the public hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, which case the person or entity making the request shall pay for the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the Commission from making a transcript or recording of the public hearing if it chooses to do so.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Interstate Commission at hearings required by this section.
- (g) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Interstate Commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.
- (h) The Interstate Commission shall, by majority vote of a quorum of the commissioners, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.
- (i) Not later than sixty (60) days after a rule is adopted, any interested person may file a petition for judicial review of the rule in the United States district court of the District of Columbia or in the federal district court where the Interstate Commission's principal office is located. If the court finds that the Interstate Commission's action is not supported by substantial evidence, as defined in the federal Administrative Procedures Act, in the rulemaking record, the court shall hold the rule unlawful and set it aside.
- (j) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Interstate Commission may promulgate an emergency rule that shall become effective immediately upon adoption, provided that the usual rulemaking procedures provided in the compact and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of the rule. An emergency rule is one that must be made effective immediately in order to--
  - (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
  - (2) Prevent a loss of federal or state funds;
  - (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or
- (4) Protect human health and the environment.

#### SEC. 2.102 Dues formula

- (a) The commission shall determine the formula to be used in calculating the annual assessments to be paid by states. Public notice of any proposed revision to the approved dues formula shall be given at least 30 days prior to the Commission meeting at which the proposed revision will be considered.
- (b) The Commission may consider the population of the states, the number of students subject to the compact within each state, and the volume of student transfers between states in determining and adjusting the assessment formula.
- (c) The approved formula and resulting assessments for all member states shall be distributed by the commission to each member state annually.

- (d) The dues formula shall be based on the figure of one dollar per child of military families eligible for transfer under this compact.

## Chapter 300 – TRANSFER OF EDUCATION RECORDS AND ENROLLMENT

### SEC. 3.101 Eligibility for transfer and enrollment

- (a) Unofficial or “hand-carried” education records – In the event that official education records cannot be released to the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as determined by the Interstate Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records, as quickly as possible. In the event a state or LEA charges a fee for copies of educational records, such a fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of reproduction.
- (b) Official education records/transcripts -- Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student’s official education record from the school in the sending state. Upon receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state within ten (10) business days except for a designated school staff break including, but not limited to, spring, summer, or holiday. Records should be furnished as soon as possible following the return of staff from a school staff break; however, the time shall not exceed ten (10) days after the return of staff.

### SEC. 3.102 Application for transfer of student records and enrollment

An application for transfer of educational records of students subject to this compact shall contain the following:

- (a) Immunizations – Compacting states shall give thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) calendar days.
- (b) Kindergarten and First grade entrance age – Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including Kindergarten) from a LEA in the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an accredited school in the sending state.
  - (1) Any student who transfers from an out-of-state public school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to the school of the state being transferred into shall be admitted upon presentation of the data required in subsection (3).
  - (2) Any student who transfers from an out-of-state nonpublic school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to a public school in the state being transferred, shall be admitted if the student meets age requirements for public schools within the state from which he or she is transferring, and if the transfer of the student’s academic credit is

acceptable under rules of the school board. Prior to admission, the parent or guardian must also provide the data required in subsection (3).

- (3) In order to be admitted into a school in the receiving state, such a student transferring from the sending state must provide the following data:
- (i) Official military orders showing that the military member was assigned to the state (or commuting area) of the state in which the child was previously duly enrolled and attended school. If a child of a military member was residing with a legal guardian during the previous enrollment and not the military member, a copy of the family care plan, or proof of guardianship, as specified in the Interstate Compact, or any information sufficient for the receiving district to establish eligibility under this compact shall be provided;
  - (ii) An official letter or transcript from the proper school authority which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement of the student;
  - (iii) Documented evidence of immunization against communicable diseases; and
  - (iv) Evidence of date of birth.

## Chapter 400 – GRADUATION

### SEC 4.101 Graduation

- (a) Waiver requirements – LEA administrative officials shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another LEA or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the LEA shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time. If the receiving LEA requires a graduation project, volunteer community service hours, or other state or LEA specific requirements, the receiving LEA may waive those requirements.
- (b) Exit exams – States shall accept: 1) exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; or 2) national norm-referenced achievement tests or 3) alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a student transferring in his or her senior year, then the provisions of Article VII, Section C of the Compact shall apply.
- (c) Transfers during senior year – There may be cases in which a military student transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the receiving LEA after all alternatives have been considered. In such cases the sending and receiving LEA's shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending LEA, if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending LEA. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of Article VII of the Compact.

## Chapter 500 – PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE

### SEC. 5.101 Course placement

The receiving school shall initially place a student who transfers before or during the school year in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and/or educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state to the extent the educational courses are provided by the receiving school. Course placement includes but is not limited to Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s). The receiving school may allow the student to attend similar educational courses in other schools within the LEA if the receiving school does not offer such educational courses.

### SEC. 5.102 Educational program placement

The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to: 1) gifted and talented programs; and 2) English as a second language (ESL). The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course(s). The receiving school may allow the student to attend similar educational courses in other schools within the LEA if the receiving school does not offer such programs.

### SEC. 5.103 Special education services

- (a) In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq, the receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP); and
- (b) In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, the receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing Section 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education.
- (c) The receiving school may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and appropriate services. The receiving school shall follow any current regulations the receiving state has in place in order to comply with federal or state law.

### SEC. 5.104 Placement flexibility

LEA officials shall have flexibility in waiving course/program prerequisites, or other preconditions for placement in courses/programs offered under the jurisdiction of the LEA.

### SEC. 5.105 Absence as related to deployment activities

A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the Compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the LEA superintendent or head of school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian. Notwithstanding the above, the LEA superintendent or head of school may provide a maximum number of additional excused absences.

## Chapter 600 -- ELIGIBILITY

### SEC. 6.101 Eligibility for Enrollment

- (a) A custody order, special power of attorney, or other applicable document relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under the applicable law of each member state shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent. A special power of attorney form, which is acceptable in some jurisdictions, can be obtained through the JAG offices pursuant to Military Family Care Plan regulations.
  - (1) A local education agency shall be prohibited from charging local tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent. Tuition may be charged for optional programs offered by the LEA.
  - (2) A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a non-custodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to attend the school in which he/she was enrolled while residing with the custodial parent. The local education agency shall not charge tuition. In addition, transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the non-custodial parent or other persons standing in loco parentis.
- (b) Eligibility for extracurricular participation – State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children’s inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, with consultation with the state high school athletic association, to the extent they are otherwise qualified. Application deadlines include tryouts, summer conditioning and other coach or district prerequisites.

## Chapter 700 – OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### SEC. 7.101 Informal communication to resolve disputes or controversies

- (a) States shall attempt to resolve disputes or controversies by communicating with each other by telephone, telefax, or electronic mail.
- (b) Failure to resolve dispute or controversy—
  - (1) Following an unsuccessful attempt to resolve controversies or disputes arising under this compact, its by-laws or its rules as required under sec.7.101 (a), states shall pursue one or more of the informal dispute resolution processes set forth in sec. 7.101 (b)(2) prior to resorting to formal dispute resolution alternatives.
  - (2) Parties shall submit a written request to the executive director for assistance in resolving the controversy or dispute. The executive director shall provide a written response to the parties within ten (10) days and may, at the executive director’s discretion, seek the assistance of legal counsel or the executive committee in resolving the dispute. The executive committee may authorize its standing committees or the executive director to assist in resolving the dispute or controversy.

### SEC. 7.102 Formal resolution of disputes and controversies

- (a) Alternative dispute resolution – Any controversy or dispute between or among compacting states that arises from or relates to this compact that is not resolved under sec. 7.101 may be

resolved by alternative dispute resolution processes. These shall consist of mediation and arbitration.

(b) Mediation and arbitration

(1) Mediation

- (i) A state that is party to a dispute may request, or the executive committee may require, the submission of a matter in controversy to mediation.
- (ii) Mediation shall be conducted by a mediator appointed by the executive committee from a list of mediators approved by the national organization responsible for setting standards for mediators and pursuant to procedures customarily used in mediation proceedings.

(2) Arbitration

- (i) Arbitration may be recommended by the executive committee in any dispute regardless of the parties' previous submission of the dispute to mediation.
- (ii) Arbitration shall be administered by at least one neutral arbiters or a panel of arbiters not to exceed three members. These arbiters shall be selected from a list of arbiters maintained by the commission staff.
- (iii) The arbitration may be administered pursuant to procedures customarily used in arbitration proceedings and at the direction of the arbiter.
- (iv) Upon the demand of any party to a dispute arising under the compact, the dispute shall be referred to the American Arbitration Association and shall be administered pursuant to its commercial arbitration rules.
- (v) (a) The arbiter in all cases shall assess all costs of arbitration, including fees of the arbiter and reasonable attorney fees of the prevailing party, against the party that did not prevail.  
(b) The arbiter shall have the power to impose any sanction permitted by this compact and other laws of the state or the federal district in which the commission has its principal offices.
- (vi) Judgment on any award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

SEC 7.103 Enforcement actions against a defaulting state

(a) If the Interstate Commission determines that any state has at any time defaulted ("defaulting state") in the performance of any of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact, the by-laws or any duly promulgated rules the Interstate Commission may impose any or all of the following penalties:

- (1) Damages or costs in such amounts as are deemed to be reasonable as fixed by the Interstate Commission;
- (2) Remedial training and technical assistance as directed by the Interstate Commission;
- (3) Suspension and termination of membership in the compact. Suspension shall be imposed only after all other reasonable means of securing compliance under the by-laws and rules have been exhausted. Immediate notice of suspension shall be given by the Interstate

Commission to the governor, the chief justice or chief judicial officer of the state, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and the state council.

- (b) The grounds for default include, but are not limited to, failure of a Compacting State to perform such obligations or responsibilities imposed upon it by this compact, Interstate Commission by-laws, or duly promulgated rules. The Interstate Commission shall immediately notify the defaulting state in writing of the penalty imposed by the Interstate Commission on the defaulting state pending a cure of the default. The Interstate Commission shall stipulate the conditions and the time period within which the defaulting state must cure its default. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default within the time period specified by the Interstate Commission, in addition to any other penalties imposed herein, the defaulting state may be terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the compacting states and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this Compact shall be terminated from the effective date of suspension.
- (c) Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of termination of a defaulting state, the Interstate Commission shall notify the governor, the chief justice or chief judicial officer, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and the state council of such termination.
- (d) The defaulting state is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination including any obligations, the performance of which extends beyond the effective date of termination.
- (e) The Interstate Commission shall not bear any costs relating to the defaulting state unless otherwise mutually agreed upon between the Interstate Commission and the defaulting state.
- (f) Reinstatement following termination of any compacting state requires both a reenactment of the Compact by the defaulting state and the approval of the Interstate Commission pursuant to the rules.

#### SEC 7.104 Judicial enforcement

The Interstate Commission may, by majority vote of the members, initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or, at the discretion of the Interstate Commission, in the federal district where the Interstate Commission has its offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact, its duly promulgated rules and by-laws, against any compacting state in default. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation including reasonable attorneys' fees.

APPENDIX B: REQUEST FOR ELEMENTARY ACCELERATION

To be completed by Parent/Guardian

ACCEL options 1003.4295 F.S. are educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible students. *For the majority of students, in-class differentiation provides the learning opportunities needed for advanced students to be challenged.* The school must carefully consider the effect of ACCEL options, especially mid-year and full-year promotion, on the student's future social, emotional and academic performance. A plan for the smooth transition from the student's current grade to a higher grade must be developed, as well as assurance of continuous course progression into middle and high school. **The students' commitment, desire for the program and maturity level must be considered as well as meeting the eligibility requirements.** Parent permission is necessary for ACCEL options.

Student (legal name): \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: (Please print first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the ACCEL Option you are requesting: (request must be submitted by May 1)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mid-year promotion to grade

\_\_\_\_\_ Full-year promotion to grade

\_\_\_\_\_ Subject-matter acceleration for subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual instruction in higher grade level subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Work Class (Teacher initiated prior to May 1)

On a separate piece of paper, give specific examples that you have observed of how your child functions at a significantly higher level in the subject area requested for acceleration. In your response, describe each of the following:

1. Academic performance
2. Ability to apply, analyze, and evaluate ideas at an advanced level
3. Ability to work independently
4. Ability to think creatively
5. Motivation to work on advanced material

Signature of individual submitting request: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this document to the school principal prior to the deadline noted above.**

APPENDIX C: Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)  
ELEMENTARY Performance Contract

(To be completed before each new ACCEL Option)

Student (legal name): \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: (Please print first and last name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the ACCEL Option you are requesting:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mid-year promotion to grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ Full-year promotion to grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ Subject-matter acceleration for subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Virtual instruction in higher grade level subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Work Class(s)

**Agreement**

Student participation in the selected ACCEL Option is contingent upon the student meeting eligibility and procedural requirements, as explained in the Sarasota County Student Progression Plan. Students are required to participate in all state, federal, and local assessments if mid-year or full-year promotion occurs. If a student fails to comply with the stipulated requirements at any time after the ACCEL Option is in effect, the principal may terminate the student's participation and will determine the appropriate placement in lieu of the ACCEL Option.

**I grant permission for my student to accelerate his/her learning and agree to the conditions stated above:**

Parent/Guardian's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_