ACCEL ACADEMY

BOONE COUNTY SCHOOLS

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Program Description, 2021-22

Purpose:

The Accel Academy program is designed to provide a high quality virtual learning opportunity for students within Boone County Schools and surrounding districts. Boone County Schools acknowledges that virtual learning for some students is a viable avenue for obtaining a high school diploma.

Targeted Attendance:

The Accel program will admit students who meet certain criteria. This criteria is set to ensure a student's success in the program. Students who:
- Are behind significantly in credits
- Are homeschool students looking for a curriculum
- Suffer from anxiety or other diagnosis that inhibits school attendance
- Are homebound students with a delayed target date for return
- Have full-time employment who wish to study in the evening
- Are working part-time, but need to complete school work on an individual basis
- Are students who have demonstrated success previously in a virtual learning environment

Enrollment:

There will be an application process for enrollment. The criteria listed above are initial criteria for acceptance into Accel. Two application windows will be provided:
1. Fall enrollment: May 1 - June 30 (acceptance letters issued by July 15)
2. Spring enrollment: Nov. - Dec. 15 (acceptance letters issued by Dec. 23)

The review of applicants will be completed by Accel staff, District staff, and the home Middle or High School. Hardship cases will be reviewed on a case by case basis with the District Transition Coordinator and home high school. There will be no hardship exceptions for middle level students.

Criteria:
- Any student may apply grades 6-12
- Students have to show satisfactory progress in previous virtual school experiences, and will have to show success once in the program. Failure to show satisfactory progress during the year will result in dismissal from the Accel program

Full time:
Students who attend the Accel program full time will be required to withdraw from their home high school or their private Homeschool.

Partial Enrollment:
Students who wish to take a course at Accel outside of their enrolled school will stay enrolled with their home high school. Application forms will be required to ensure the credit will be accepted by the student's home school. The fee per class for students outside of Boone County would be $125 for ½ credit and $250 for a full credit.

The Accel program will follow the Boone County District Calendar for grading and attendance purposes.

Graduation Requirements:

Students who attend the Accel program will graduate with the Boone County Diploma. To qualify for this diploma a student must have 22 credits, and those credits must meet all [KDE requirements in obtaining a high school diploma](#).

For completion and the awarding of the Boone County Diploma, each student must complete a defense of learning before a panel of Accel staff. This defense of learning should demonstrate a student's progression of learning over the course of their Accel experience.

Testing Requirements:

Students who attend the ACCEL program will be required to take all state assessments required by state regulations and statutes.

ACCEL students will also take benchmark assessments as determined by staff to ensure reliability and congruence between the ACCEL program and other Boone County High Schools. This could include assessments like: MAP, STAR, CASE, CERT. These assessments will be used to determine intervention needs for each student while also ensuring alignment between learning for all students in the system.

Curriculum:

At the foundation of the curriculum for the students at Accel will be the Edgenuity platform and curriculum. Accel staff will utilize the Boone County Curriculum Maps to determine priority standards to construct performance assessments. These assessments will be housed in a Google "Backpack" or equivalent system. This will allow students at the end of each course to defend their learning of essential skills and knowledge.

Students will also demonstrate their understanding of the knowledge of each course through Edgenuity assessments and activities, however, the performance assessments and defense of learning will carry more weight in determining the students' ability to move to the next course in the sequence of the curriculum. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate competence in the subject material.

A key component of the Accel program is students ability to show competence in the key areas of the Profile of Graduate found in Appendix A. The dispositions, skills, and understandings listed in the Profile of a Graduate were gathered from key stakeholders throughout the Northern Kentucky region. These attributes are essential to determine a students' complete preparedness to enter postsecondary education or the workforce.

Digital Portfolio:

Students who attend Accel will demonstrate their preparedness through a development of a digital portfolio. This portfolio will include items that illustrate competency or mastery of key skills and knowledge that cannot be measured through paper/pencil assessments. Performance methods will include different modes of communication, speeches, video presentations, etc.… Students will use this portfolio to defend their learning at the end of the year to a panel assembled by their virtual teacher. This defense should take no longer than ten minutes.

Work Based Learning Experience/Community Service:

To demonstrate collaboration competency and to a greater degree the ability to hold a job or be an engaged citizen, each student in collaboration with their assigned staff member is recommended to complete a work-based learning experience or community service project. Requirements for a work-based learning experience can be found in the KY Work-Based Learning Manual.

Attendance:

When a student is accepted into the Accel program they will be assigned a staff member to oversee the completion of work. This staff member will monitor the student's progress through the curriculum. It is an expectation that each student engage in learning four hours per day, five days per week. This equates to twenty hours per week. Along with this type of monitoring the staff member will also monitor completion at a satisfactory level of the Edgenuity coursework and additional assignments. Failure to make satisfactory progress may result in a student's ability to participate in the program.

Student Schedule:

Each student will be required to take a full schedule of classes each semester. Accel students will be assigned six classes per year. Each student working with their Accel staff member could be assigned one class to work on at a time to completion or multiple classes.

District Programs:

Students who participate in the Accel program will have access to the full slate of Boone County Innovative programs listed below:
Early College
Homebuilders
Vocational School

Faculty:

Each Accel student will be assigned a certified staff member who will be their mentor and provide support to students. Tutoring is available for each subject area above through office hours at the Accel building at 3300 Barney Rd. in Burlington. Requests for tutoring should be made through a student's assigned faculty member.

Technology:

Students who attend the Accel program will be able to use a district owned computer. However, a student may wish to use their own personal computer.

Student Fee:

Students who attend the Accel program full time will be charged a yearly general fee as approved by the Boone County Board of Education.

Grading:

The following grading scale will be used for students who attend the Accel program:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
Below 69	I*

Assignments and Assessments will be scored from 0-4 based on the Boone County District Proficiency Scales. Staff will follow district guidelines on translating the 0-4 into an appropriate final numerical grade at the end of the grading period.

* An "I" translates into an "F" per board policy on June 30th.

Staffing Structure for Year 1, 2021-22

Director: Bill Hogan

Coordinator: Tracy Schaefer

Counselor: Ronda Dawson

Teaching Staff: Ashley Hibbett, Jessica Gels, Chris Johnson, Leslie Walters

Office Staff: Colette Coomer