

Date: June 16, 2017

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION

Board Agenda: Yes ___

No

FROM: F. Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted Program Coordinator

THROUGH: Terri Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee A. Gentry, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Policy IKEB- Acceleration Research Brief

SUMMARY: Research relating to the success of using acceleration for students needing curriculum beyond their grade level is summarized in the attached brief. This research points to the need to increase these opportunities for students. In addition, it supports the need to develop strong policies in order to ensure equitable implementation and access for all students. The *Templeton Report: A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students* and the subsequent report *A Nation Empowered*, both address the results from thirty years of research conducted through the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development. These results are reflected in the attached portions taken from both publications:

- 1) *Executive Summary-A Nation Deceived*
Provides the backdrop of what acceleration is and the results found after 20 years of study and addresses many of the myths commonly associated with the notion of acceleration.
- 2) *Message To Schools- A Nation Empowered*
Updates *A Nation Deceived* and describes twenty important points about educational acceleration and provides rationale for the need to develop strong policies regarding acceleration in our schools.
- 3) *Acceleration Works- A Nation Empowered*
Discusses types of acceleration and provides individual vignettes and related evidence supporting the practice of acceleration.
- 4) *What's On the Horizon- A Nation Empowered*
Discusses the impact of acceleration on emerging trends in areas such as twice-exceptionality, diversity, professional development, and STEM education.

BACKGROUND:

As a follow-up to the June 8, 2017 School Board presentation of the revised Acceleration Policy IKEB and newly developed regulations, the following brief is provided to give greater detail and support to the proposed revision of the acceleration policy and regulations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Executive Summary-*A Nation Deceived*
- 2) Message To Schools- *A Nation Empowered*
- 3) Acceleration Works- *A Nation Empowered*
- 4) What's On the Horizon- *A Nation Empowered*
- 5) *Templeton Report: A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students – Vol. 1*
- 6) *A Nation Empowered – Vol. 1*

CONTACT: F. Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted Program Coordinator,
frances.brearley@acps.k12.va.us

DRAFT