

## Acceleration Academy: Program Overview

The Academics department is allocating funds to support Acceleration Academies in an effort to increase learning time and access to high-quality educators over school vacations. The Academies are week-long academic programs outside of the traditional academic school year breaks [February (ELA Focus, Key Ideas and Details with Informational Text) and April (Math Focus, specific domains associated with major work of the grade)]. The Academies are designed to accelerate student learning in small academically rich settings by leveraging engaging, standards-aligned lessons. Lessons build toward a project/problem-based performative task which provides students an opportunity to integrate their learning, strengthen academic skills and engage with complex text and tasks. The District will fund programs in regions 2-10, serving students in grades 3 through 10, with a focus on prioritizing attendance for our English Learners, Students with Special Needs, and our ELSWDs. [Applications](#) are due November 19, 2021.

Acceleration Academies must meet the following criteria:

- Student invitation and participation will be selected using Fall MAP Growth data. Schools must serve 20% of students at each of the selected grade levels.
  - Seventy-five (75) percent of students participating in the Academy must be identified as Multilingual Learners and Students with Disabilities.
- Implement specific strategies to advocate and support our Multilingual Learners and Students with Disabilities to attend and ensure students receive appropriate instruction and support. This should include various incentives to reward and celebrate students who choose to attend the Acceleration Academies, leveraging family liaisons for targeted outreach, and the ability to provide multilingual materials.
- Leverage district provided instructional materials as a foundation for a focus on key, high-leverage standards;
- Create a culture across the school that an invitation to an Acceleration Academy is a celebration of a student's hard work and interest to extend his/her/their learning and not as a required intervention;
- Build excitement around the opportunity to be an Acceleration Academy Fellow (teachers) and recruit exceptional teachers who have a track record of accelerating learning;
- Select Acceleration Academy Fellows through a rigorous application process that prioritizes track record of success and ambitious teaching practice and which attracts applicants from site schools, other district schools, and schools from other cities and towns. Job descriptions can be found [here](#), applicants will apply online. ;
- Have, or be willing to create, a partnership with an afterschool program provider to serve students after the academic day;
- Complete the Acceleration [Application](#) and be selected by the approval committee.

## Program Details

The following are guidelines for BPS Acceleration Academies programming:

- Acceleration Academies will serve students in grades 3 through 10 in regions 2 through 10;
- The Academics will run February 22 - 25, 2022, and April 19 - 22, 2022;
- The Academic day will be 5 hours. Students receive at least 4 or 5 hours of instruction in the same subject area each day for the entire week (totaling 20 hours). Core content teachers teach the same group of 10-12 students for the whole week and should have one planning period each day. Below is a sample schedule:
  - 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM Breakfast
  - 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM ELA Class with teacher A
  - 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Specials Class (Planning period for teacher A)
  - 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Lunch
  - 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM ELA Class with teacher A
- Students who normally take BPS buses to schools will have transportation to and from school;
- Breakfast and lunch will be served;
- There will be optional after-school programming for two hours after the academic day for those families who need an extended day during the vacation. Parents will need to arrange to pick up their students for an extended day.

## **District Supports**

The District will support schools accepted to run Acceleration Academies in the following ways:

- Work with participating schools to determine criteria for student invitations to programs;
- Provide transportation for students who take BPS buses during the traditional school year;
- Fund Acceleration Academy Teaching Fellows, Site Coordinators, Specialists, Nurses, Paraprofessionals, Food Service Providers, and Custodians.
- Make available attendance tracking;
- Provide and post job descriptions for all Acceleration Academy positions.
  - Acceleration Academy Fellows will be compensated \$3,500 for each four-day Acceleration Academy;
  - Site Coordinators will be compensated \$8000 (\$4000 per academy), expecting that they will run both Academies.
- Provide hiring rubrics, support, and guidance;
- Provide access to program assessments;
- Hold high-quality professional development led by an expert in high-intensity intervention work;
- Purchase curricular and relevant learning materials