

Academic Acceleration

We want our students to love learning and be motivated to excel and achieve their potential; to help them do that, CTA provides great flexibility in scheduling to ensure that high-achieving students can receive challenging coursework. Qualifying students may be accelerated through several avenues:

- Taking a class with the next grade level: Grades 1-8. (e.g., a high-level 2nd grade reader may join the 3rd grade reading class, or an 8th grader may be scheduled into the high school algebra class.)
- Taking a combination of regular and PLATO classes: Grades 4-12. (e.g., a 5th grade student may take 6th grade PLATO math online during math class.)
- Eligible high school students may take college level courses online or through local colleges (must provide own transportation).

Criteria for selection:

1. Test scores
 - 5th grade: MEAP scores - 566 in Reading and/or 565 in Math
 - 6th/7th grades: MEAP scores of 1 or a high 2.
2. Grades 6-9 students may be required to take the PLAN test (normed at the 10th grade level) and write a one half-page, single spaced personal statement, sharing a story or other information stating why they are requesting acceleration.
3. 9th/10th grade students may take the PLAN or early ACT/MME (10th grade) in order to qualify for dual enrollment classes.
4. Teacher and/or parent request
5. Teachers will give a recommendation on the student's social/emotional readiness for acceleration; however, this will not be binding on the final decision.

Process:

1. Parents or high school students may submit a request for acceleration to the Director of Academics.
2. The Academic Committee will consider eligibility (test scores, grades and teacher recommendations); further testing may be required.
3. After committee review, the applicant will be contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss the request and develop a written acceleration plan if approval is granted.
4. The acceleration plan will be provisional for a 30-day monitoring period; final approval is based on student progress during that time.
5. Continued accelerated status is contingent upon satisfactory performance.
6. Students may test out of courses upon request; if successful, a grade of CR (credit) will be listed on the transcript.
7. A student is given senior status when 19.5 of 27 credits have been completed.
8. Credit for AP and college courses is given on a 5.0 scale.
9. Committee decisions may be appealed to the School Leader/Superintendent.
10. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Robbie Coxon, Director of Academics.

PLATO Online Courses

CTA added PLATO online courses to the curriculum in 2009 in order to expand available course offerings and add greater flexibility in scheduling. PLATO offers online assessments that are tied directly to state standards; instruction is targeted to benchmarks and standards the student has not yet mastered. These courses meet the online learning requirement of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Most importantly, PLATO is another choice for learning at CTA, making a difference in the lives of learners—as they upgrade their skills, increase their self-esteem, discover successful employment skills, and become better, more self-sufficient students.

Classes are available 24/7 to students with access to the internet. These K-12 online classes cover a broad range of teaching and learning needs:

- Credit recovery
- Scheduling conflicts
- Learning style preference
- Acceleration
- Remediation
- Test prep (MEAP/ACT/MME)
- Online homework for elementary students
- New for 2010-11 school year: Advanced Placement courses in Literature, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry and US History!

Guidelines for PLATO courses:

1. Students may take PLATO courses free of charge when scheduled during the school year.
2. Seniors may finish up credits through PLATO through the summer without charge if work is not finished by graduation.
3. CTA students taking PLATO courses in the summer for credit recovery or acceleration will be charged \$100 per class. Students not enrolled at CTA will be charged \$175 per class. (Access to PLATO courses depends on availability of licenses.)
4. Students desiring to take PLATO courses in addition to a full class load must apply to the Academic Committee. A \$100 class fee may be charged.
5. PLATO English courses will be available only for students earning recovery credit.
6. Final tests must be taken at CTA and monitored by a teacher. (Summer test dates will be scheduled.)
7. AP courses require a passing score on the AP exam to earn college credit. CTA will pay the exam fee.
8. The ACT/MME test prep classes may be taken by CTA students at any time, free of charge. Summer students should register before the last day of school.