

Highly Capable Programs

Definition

Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within student's general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivities within a specific domain. These students are present not only in the general populace, but are present within all protected classes.

Students who are highly capable may possess, but are not limited to, these learning characteristics:

1. Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations;
2. Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than others peers;
3. Creative ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts;
4. Ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength; and
5. Capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

The following procedures shall be employed to nominate, assess and select students to participate in the program:

Nomination

Parents will be sent a checklist to use in determining if they should recommend their child for consideration in the program. Interested parents may nominate their child to the program. Teachers will complete Observation Guide for Teachers in order to identify the students who should be nominated for the program. The teacher should complete the Scale for Rating Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students for the three top students as identified on the Observation Guide for Teachers. Those students with their relative scores will provide a basis for ranking the teacher nominees. Results should be recorded on the Student Data Sheet.

Assessment

Assessment data for students shall be compiled. Any student may be nominated for assessment. Parents/guardians, teachers, and other staff members may nominate a student for assessment. In addition, all second grade students shall be assessed for the program. Nominees will be assessed for academic aptitude and cognitive ability. The score will be posted on the Student Data Sheet. Achievement test results shall be recorded in the appropriate space. Performance will also serve to assess the relative strengths in terms of mathematics and reading.

Selection

A multi-disciplinary selection team composed of a District administrator, psychologist or other individual who can interpret cognitive and achievement test results, and a teacher will review data that has been collected for each of the nominated students. They will select those students who would receive the most benefit from participating in the program. The following steps are: (a) notify parents of students who have been selected, (b) schedule a meeting of all such parents, (c) solicit a signed Letter of Understanding from each parent who desires to enroll his/her child in the program. Placement in the middle school program will be considered separately for Humanities (English/Social Studies) and Math/Science. Should a parent wish to appeal the decision regarding a student's eligibility for the Highly Capable Program, he/she must notify the Superintendent/designee, in writing, within ten (10) days of receipt of that decision. The Superintendent or designee shall issue an opinion, in writing, within ten (10) days. The decision of the Superintendent/designee is final.

Out-of-District Students

Grades 3 and 4: Out-of-district students who qualify for the Highly Capable program will be placed in the PAL classrooms for Grades 3 and 4 on a space available basis.

Grades 5-12: Out-of-district students who qualify for advanced classes in Grades 5-12 will be placed in the advanced classes on a space available basis.

Exit From Program

A student who fails to make progress or fails to pursue a course of study may be exited from the program upon the recommendation of a multi-disciplinary team composed of a District administrator, teacher, psychologist, and parent. An alternate educational placement will be made on a space available basis. If a resolution is not reached, the building administrator shall make the final decision.

Program Description

Annually, the District will report to OSPI the following information regarding the District's Highly Capable programs:

- (1) A report of the number of K-12 students who are highly capable that the district expects to serve by grade level;
- (2) A description of the district's plan to identify students;
- (3) A description of the highly capable program goals;
- (4) A description of the services the highly capable program will offer;
- (5) A description of the instructional program the highly capable program will provide;
- (6) A description of ongoing professional development for educators of students who are highly capable and general education staff;
- (7) A description of how the highly capable program will be evaluated that includes information on how the district's highly capable program goals and student achievement outcomes will be measured;
- (8) A fiscal report; and
- (9) Assurances signed by the school district's authorized representative that the district will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

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