

POLICY 6094 PROCEDURES

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 students' 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.

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

NOMINATION

Students may be nominated by parents, peers and members of the community. Nominators will complete a behavioral characteristics questionnaire, and teachers will provide information that includes classroom performance and general achievement levels,

ASSESSMENT

The District will screen each nominee using reading and math measures to identify students who qualify for further assessment. Prior to conducting the assessment, the principal or designee shall obtain written parental permission. Nominees identified through the screening process will be assessed using multiple criteria from a variety of sources and data, including tests that measure cognitive ability and academic achievement. Test results shall be recorded in the student's cumulative file.

WAC 392-170-055: Students nominated for selection as a highly capable student, unless eliminated through screening as provided in WAC 392-170-050, shall be assessed by qualified district personnel using a minimum of one measure for each of the multiple criteria in WAC 392-170-040. In order to be considered for final selection as among the most highly capable by the multidisciplinary selection committee following assessment, there shall exist evidence of one of more of the following characteristics:

1. Evidence that the student scores in the top ten percent in cognitive ability as demonstrated by a standardized ability test;
2. Evident that the student scores in the top five percent in one or more specific academic achievement area; and/or
3. Evidence that the student demonstrates behavioral characteristics for exceptional creativity.

SELECTION

The students selected for participation in the program will be determined by a multidisciplinary committee which includes a classroom teacher or if possible, a highly capable teacher, the program director, a psychologist or other individual who can interpret cognitive and achievement test results, and other professionals as deemed desirable. The multidisciplinary committee will review data of nominated students. They will select those students who meet the criteria and would benefit the most from the program.

The District will:

1. Notify the parents of those students who have been selected. Parents shall receive a full explanation of the procedures for identification, program options and the appeal process.
2. Obtain parental permission place identified students in the program before any special services and programs are provided to the student.

Program Design

The District will offer highly capable students the following programs: Options include but are not limited to: accelerated learning opportunities; academic grouping that provide intellectual and interest peer group

interactions; cooperative agreements between K-12 and institutions of higher education and programs designed to share resources and facilities to maximize student learning and mentorships and career explorations.

Reporting

The superintendent or designee shall provide an end-of-year report to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) which includes:

- number of students served by grade level K-12;
- Student demographic information;
- Data to determine if students who are highly capable met the goals set and if the programs provided met the academic needs of these students;
- Number and content of professional development activities provided for special teachers and general education staff;
- Program evaluation data and, if needed, program changes that will be made based upon this information; and
- Final fiscal report that reports on activities and staff funded by this program.