

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAMS

In accordance with the philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, the district shall offer appropriate instructional programs to meet the needs of highly capable students of school age. The framework for such programs shall encompass, but not be limited to, the following objectives:

- A. Expansion of academic attainments and intellectual skills;
- B. Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility;
- C. Development of a positive attitude toward self and others; and
- D. Development of originality and creativity.

The board will annually approve the district's highly capable application which describes the number of students served by grade level; the district's plan to identify students; program services; instructional program description; professional development; program evaluation and fiscal report; and assurances that the district is legally compliant.

The superintendent shall establish procedures consistent with state guidelines for nominating, assessing and selecting children of demonstrated achievement or potential ability in terms of general intellectual ability, academic aptitude and creative or productive thinking.

Legal References: RCW 28A.185.030 Programs — Authority of local school districts —
Selection of students
WAC 392-170 Special services program — Highly capable students

Management Resources: Policy News, April 2008 Highly Capable Programs

Adoption: Feb 26, 2009
Orcas Island School District

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

Nomination

Anyone may nominate a child to the program, including teachers, other staff, parents, students, and members of the community. Nominators will be sent the district's nomination form to recommend a child for consideration in the program.

Assessment

The district will screen each nominee using the WASL or other appropriate testing to identify students who qualify for further assessment.

Prior to conducting assessment(s) written parental permission shall be obtained. 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, academic achievement and evidence of exceptional creativity. Test results shall be recorded in the student's cumulative file.

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 district will:

- A. Notify parents of students who have been selected. Parents shall receive a full explanation of the procedures for identification, program options and the appeal process;
- B. Obtain parental permission to provide services and programs;
- C. Schedule a meeting of all such parents ;and
- D. Conduct an annual parent meeting to review each student's educational plan.

Program Design

The District will offer highly capable students the following programs: (Describe the district's programs. Options include but are not limited to: accelerated learning opportunities; academic grouping arrangements 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 exploration.)

Each individual student or group of students with similar needs shall have a program plan. Services will be made available based on that plan and include a continuum of services.

Reporting

The superintendent or designee shall provide an end-of-the-year report to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

ADOPTED Date: Mar 26, 2009