

**DISTRICT HIGHLY CAPABLE GUIDELINE**  
**La Center School District**

<b>Guideline Title:</b>	<b>Highly Capable Program</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>08/01/2024</b>

**Statement of Purpose:**

It is the goal of the La Center School District to ensure high levels of learning and opportunities for all students including those who are highly capable or performing at advanced levels. The Highly Capable Program is intended to provide support for students scouted and identified as requiring services beyond the normal learning environment. Highly Capable students are identified following State definitions of Highly Capable and include students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, and environment. Outstanding abilities are seen within students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivity within a specific domain.

**Program Goals:**

- To offer teacher professional learning opportunities to maximize teacher effectiveness
- To identify students who have high intellectual, academic and/or creative thinking abilities
- To provide an intellectual peer group
- To provide opportunities for eligible students at each building

**Program Options**

Identified students have access to specialized services through flexible and cluster grouping in specific classes. Students in grades K-12 are served in their home schools.

**Referral Process**

Data and information gathered will be reviewed by the district Highly Capable Team which will identify the most highly qualified students for inclusion in the Highly Capable Program. The district team includes classroom teachers, school admin, district admin, an Instructional Specialist, and a parent advocate. The district team will select those students who would receive the most benefit from participating in the program.

**Data Sources for Placement in the 2025-2026 School Year**

*NOTE: Not all data sources are used, but all combinations are options if needed starting from left to right.*

- Kindergarten - WaKIDS → STAR → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
  - Target Placements in Cohorts
- First Grade - Prior Year Info → STAR → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire

- Target Placements in Cohorts
- Second Grade - Screener from CogAT (all students) → STAR → Prior Year Info → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
- Third Grade - Prior Year Info → STAR → Standards-Based Common Assessments → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
- Fourth Grade - Prior Year Info → STAR → SBA → Standards-Based Common Assessments → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
- Fifth Grade - Prior Year Info → STAR → SBA → Standards-Based Common Assessments → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
- Sixth Grade - Screener from CogAT (all students) → STAR → SBA → Standards-Based Common Assessments → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire
- 7th - 12th Grade → Prior Year Info → STAR → SBA → Standards-Based Common Assessments → Teacher Referral → Parent Hi-Cap Questionnaire

#### **Data Scores for Placement in the 2024-2025 School Year**

- STAR Data for all grades: 97% PR
- 2nd Grade and 6th Grade: 97% PR on STAR Assessment AND 97% CogAT
- SBA Comparable Data for Grades 3-8
- Parent Hi-Cap questionnaire as needed
- Teacher Recommendation of Appropriate Placement
  - NOTE -Participation in a cohort will require parent approval

#### **Communication**

Parents of students participating in the 2nd-grade and 6th-grade CogAT screener will get a letter explaining the purpose and intent of the screener. No permission is needed from parents because we are not giving the entire CogAT assessment. The principal will notify parents/guardians via Skyward and/or the class catalog and/or school newsletter with a description of the program opportunities and a timeline for the referral process. Following the data collection each year, parents will be notified of cluster placements by May 1st at the elementary level. If a parent has not been notified that their child has been placed in a cluster class, they can appeal the placement before June 1st. Students will be notified of class placements at the secondary level prior to the beginning of the year. If a student or parent would like class placement adjusted to an advanced class, they can appeal the placement before classes start.

#### **Appeal Process**

- If a student, parent, and/or teacher disagrees with the student's placement into the Highly Capable Program, a letter of recommendation will be requested from both a core teacher and parent and data will be reviewed. This additional information will be reviewed by the Highly Capable Committee.
  - If the appeal concern involves the student's creativity, additional assessments may be considered.