

Highly Capable Program

Purpose

In accordance with the philosophy to develop the special abilities of each student, Valley School District will offer additional instructional programs to meet the needs of highly capable students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Scope

This policy applies to administrators, staff, students, parents or guardians, community members and practitioners involved in the Highly Capable program.

Policy

1. In order to develop the special abilities of each student, the district will offer a Highly Capable Program that provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students who are selected for the program with access to basic education programs that accelerate learning and enhance instruction. The framework for such programs may 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.
 - (d) Development of originality and creativity
2. The Board will annually approve the district's highly capable plan which describes the number of students the district expects to serve by grade level; the district's plan to identify students; a description of the highly capable program goals; a description of the services the program will offer; an instructional program description; a description of ongoing professional development for highly capable program and general education staff; program evaluation and fiscal report; and assurances that the district is legally compliant.
3. The Superintendent or designee will establish procedures consistent with state guidelines for referring, assessing and selecting children of demonstrated achievement or potential ability in terms of general intellectual ability, academic aptitude and creative or productive thinking. These procedures will include:
 - (a) Prioritizing equitable identification of low-income students.
 - (b) Use of multiple objective criteria and multiple pathways for identification.
 - (c) Use of local norms, unless more restrictive than national norms.
 - (d) Use of subjective measures only to support identification.
 - (e) Use of screening and assessment in the student's native language (if available) or nonverbal assessment.

Related Procedures

2190P1-Highly Capable Program

Policy Cross References

N/A

Policy Legal References

RCW 28A.185.030 – Programs — Authority of local school districts—Selection of students

WAC 392-170 – Special service program—highly capable students

Management Resources

Policy and Legal News, August 2018 – Access to Highly Capable Programs is an equity issue

Policy and Legal News, September 2013 – Highly Capable Program WAC overhauled

Policy News, April 2008 – Highly Capable Programs

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	August 18, 2010
Revised	April 16, 2014
Revised	November 21, 2018
Revised	
Revised	