



HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Phone: 425-385-4033 / Email: highlycapable@everettsd.org

Q. What is the Highly Capable Program?

- A. The Highly Capable program in Everett Public Schools is an alternative placement for students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade who would benefit from additional and accelerated educational experiences. In Everett Public Schools, it is designed to meet learning needs and challenge students who have advanced thinking and academic abilities.

Q. How do we apply for the program?

- A. By completing the [Parent/Guardian Referral for Testing Form](#) and submitting it by:
Friday, December 15, 2023 (*forms turned in after this deadline **will not** be accepted*)
- by mail to Highly Capable Program, 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201
 - or
 - by email to highlycapable@everettsd.org

Q. When and where will the Highly Capable test be this year?

- A. The Highly Capable test will be held February through March 2024 at your student's home school.

Q. Is the Highly Capable Program offered at all EPS elementary schools?

- A. The Highly Capable Program is located at the following seven elementary schools:
[Cedar Wood](#), [Forest View](#), [Mill Creek](#), [Penny Creek](#), [Tambark Creek](#), [View Ridge](#), and [Whittier](#)

Q. Will my qualifying student automatically get transportation to their Highly Capable school?

- A. Yes, transportation is provided for qualifying students to their Highly Capable School. In August, our Transportation Department will send you the bus route details.

Q. My student has siblings who want to move to the same school. Will transportation be available to them too?

- A. You will need to submit a request for [school transfer](#) for the siblings. Approval is subject to space availability. If approved, transportation will be provided. If declined, the siblings will attend their home school and transportation to their home school will be available if living outside a one-mile radius from the school.
- For school transfers information: www.everettsd.org/schooltransfers
 - For transportation information: www.everettsd.org/transportation

Q. My student is not enrolled at Everett Public Schools, but I want them to participate in the Highly Capable testing. What should I do?

- A. Whether attending a private school, homeschool, or moving from out of state, your student is eligible to test with proof of residency within the Everett Public Schools district boundary.

Please email highlycapable@everettsd.org for more information.

Q. What languages are available for the Highly Capable test?

- A. Arabic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
You can indicate your language preference on the Parent/Guardian Referral for Testing Form.



Q. Are there accommodations for testing for students with special needs?

A. Yes, if your student has an IEP (Individualized Educational Plan)/504, our office will reach out to you to discuss a plan for testing.

Q. Do we need to let our student's teacher know about the test so they can submit a referral form?

A. No, our office communicates with the teachers as needed. You can, however, discuss with the teacher whether your student would be a good fit for the program.

Q. What if I nominate my student for the Highly Capable test but they are unable to attend due to an emergency?

A. Please email highlycapable@everettsd.org if your student will miss the scheduled test. Your student will be given the opportunity to test on the makeup date in the spring. We will contact you in the spring to reschedule.

Q. If my student is accepted into the Highly Capable Program but we change our mind, can they return to a general education classroom?

A. Yes, your student can exit the program at any time.

Email highlycapable@everettsd.org. We will notify the school/teacher.

If your student's HC classroom is not at your home school, the student will return to their home school upon the exit approval. If you choose to stay at the same school, you will need to submit a request for [school transfer](#); approval is subject to space availability.

Q. If my student qualifies for the Highly Capable Program but we decline placement, will they have to test again for the service at a later date?

A. No, once students qualify for the program, they can be reinstated into the program subject to availability of space. Email your request to highlycapable@everettsd.org.

Q. Will my student take the test again for middle/high school?

A. No, the Highly Capable Program is available in second through fifth grades. The programs available in middle school are accelerated Math and English. High school offers [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) and other college-level courses.

Q. Why do some Highly Capable classes combine two grade levels?

A. We are committed to placing each qualifying student. However, as we do not always have a full class with one grade level of students, we sometimes combine grade level students.

Q. If a student enters the Highly Capable program in second or third grade, how will they catch up to the curriculum that is a year ahead?

A. Our teachers are masterful at identifying and structuring learning to help close those gaps. The teachers will know students have missed some content, and they will accommodate to meet those needs. Also, one reason that students qualify initially is because they may already be ahead of their peers.

Q: When will we receive our student's scores?

A. After the testing concludes in March, the selection committee will determine eligibility in mid-April, and our office will send out score and eligibility notices in May.



Q. What is the difference between the Screener Test and the Highly Capable Test?

- A. The Screener Test is given to all first grade and fifth grade students in the district. No referral form is required. The Screener is not a pre-qualification for the Highly Capable Program. The district uses CogAT Screener results as a predictor of which students are the best match for future Highly Capable classes and [LEAP \(Learning Enrichment Achievement Program\)](#).

The Highly Capable test is based on parent/teacher referral. First through fourth graders are eligible to take the Highly Capable test. Referral should be submitted by **Friday, December 15, 2023**.

Q. What do CogAT and ITBS stand for?

- A. CogAT stands for Cognitive Abilities Test, and ITBS stands for Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The CogAT measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning. The ITBS measures a student's knowledge in math and language arts.

Q. How is the CogAT administered?

- A. We use CogAT Form 7 and the level depends on your student's grade level. The CogAT will be administered online with headphones. All questions are multiple choice.

Q. Are the CogAT scores based on the student's age or grade level?

- A. Scores that students receive on the CogAT are given meaning when they are compared either to the scores of other students who are the same age or to the scores of other students who are in the same grade. (Age norms allow an individual's test performance to be compared to students in the norming group who are the same age. Grade norms allow an individual's performance to be compared to students in the norming group who are in the same grade.) Both age and grade norms are used for CogAT.

Q. If a student scores high in one subject, for example, math, but not in another, do they have the option to participate in the Highly Capable Program in one subject?

- A. No, all our classrooms are designed with accelerated learning in all subjects in an all-day, self-contained classroom.

Q. Does my student have to take the CogAT and ITBS tests every year to remain in the Highly Capable Program?

- A. No, once your student has qualified for the program, they do not take the test again.

Q. Will my qualifying/Highly Capable student need to test again if we move to another district? Another state?

- A. That depends on the requirements of the district and/or state.

Q. How many students are accepted into the program?

- A. There is no limit to how many students can be accepted into the Highly Capable Program. Acceptance is based on qualifying scores.

Useful Phone Numbers

- Highly Capable Program: (425) 385-4033
- School Transfers Department: (425) 385-4070
- Transportation Department: (425) 385-4144
- EPS District General Information: (425) 385-4000

EPS website: www.everettsd.org (go to 'our schools' to check on the school's information)