

Highly Capable Program

What is the Highly Capable program?

The Highly Capable program is an alternative placement for students who require additional and accelerated experiences. The program begins at grade two and continues through grade five. Eligible students are offered enrollment in a self-contained classroom for highly capable students. These classrooms are currently located at **Cedar Wood, Forest View, Mill Creek, Penny Creek, View Ridge and Whittier** elementary schools. Each neighborhood school is assigned to one of these six centers. The Highly Capable centers may have multi-age classrooms to accommodate the number of students qualifying each year.

Transportation for families living within district boundaries is offered for qualifying students to their assigned Highly Capable center. Qualifying students whose home school has a Highly Capable center will have the same transportation services as regular program students. Qualifying students must attend the assigned center unless they follow the district variance process. Transportation is NOT available for students who have obtained a variance.

How are students nominated and selected for the Highly Capable program?

Selection procedures include a nomination form from a parent and a teacher as well as testing of each student. Written parent permission is required prior to testing. A selection committee composed of the program director, a school psychologist, a principal of a school with a Highly Capable center, classroom teachers, and other professionals appointed makes the final selection of students for the program.

Selection is based on academic assessments, a cognitive assessment and teacher/parent ratings on learning, motivation and creativity. The selection committee reviews data on each student, substituting student numbers for names to protect confidentiality. Parents will receive a letter following the Selection Committee meeting with test results and the committee's decision for placement in a Highly Capable program classroom or regular program classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: No more than two tests will be administered within a four-year period. Re-tests must be at least one calendar year from the date of previous testing. Out of district testing must have prior approval of the Highly Capable program director. Testing from other sources will be considered as additional information only.

What are the Highly Capable program's objectives?

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

1. Expansion of academic attainments and intellectual skills
2. Stimulation of intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility
3. Development of a positive attitude toward self and others
4. Development of originality and creativity

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Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106

Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104

504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rbalbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063

ADA Coordinator – Kristine McDowell, kmcdowell@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250

Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201