

Highly Capable Program FAQ's

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

A: The Highly Capable test will be given during February thru March, 2023. It will take place during the school day at your student's school. A parent/guardian [referral form](#) is required to be submitted by December 16th.

Q: What is the difference between the Screener test and the Highly Capable test?

A: The Screener test is given to all first-grade students in the district without nomination from a parent or teacher. The Screener is not a pre-qualification for the Highly Capable Program, but the district uses CogAT results as a predictor of which students are the best match for future Highly Capable classes and the LEAP program. The Highly Capable test is by parent/teacher nomination only and first through fourth graders are eligible to take this test. Any student between first through fourth grade can sign up for the Highly Capable test in February.

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 students 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: In addition to English, are there other languages available for the Highly Capable test?

A: Yes! This year, the test is also available in Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. You will indicate this preference on the [HC Parent Referral Form](#).

Q: If a student scores high in one subject (e.g., Math) but not in another, do they have the option to participate in the Highly Capable Program in just one subject?

A: At this time, we do not offer a program for advanced learning in only one subject. All of our classrooms are designed as accelerated learning in all subjects in an all-day self-contained classroom.

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

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

Q: Does my student have to take the CogAT & ITBS test's every year to remain in the HC Program?

A: No, once your student is qualified for the program, they do not need to take the test again.

Q: What if I nominate my student for the Highly Capable test but he/she is unable to attend due to an illness or family emergency?

A: Please email rhowe@everettsd.org if your student is going to miss the scheduled test. Your child will be given another opportunity to test on the makeup date. The district sets the date for this makeup test and will be in contact with you in the spring.

Q: Will the HC test be given in person for students who are part of the Everett Virtual Academy?

A: Yes, the test for students in the Everett Virtual Academy will be administered at the Community Resource Center (the district office).

Q: If my student is accepted into the Highly Capable Program but I feel it's not the right fit for them and/or they are struggling, can they return to a gen-ed classroom?

A: Yes, if it is not a good fit for your student, you can remove them from the program at any time.

Q: If my student qualifies but I decline placement, does my student have to test again for services at a later date?

A: No, once you are qualified for the program, you do not need to retest to be reinstated into a Highly Capable classroom.

Q: Are there any resources or websites that my student can use for practice before taking the test?

A: There are many free websites that can help familiarize students with the format of the test questions. However, this test does not measure how much content a student has learned. Rather, it focuses on a student's ability to display cognitive skills such as reasoning and problem-solving using verbal, non-verbal and quantitative approaches to find the answers.

Q: What percentage of students are accepted into the program?

A: The Highly Capable Program does not have a limit of how many students can be accepted into the Program. If your student has qualifying scores, they will receive an acceptance letter to begin services for the following school year.

Q: Does my student have to take the test again for middle or high school?

A: No, there is not a Highly Capable Program in middle school. Students will be eligible to take accelerated math and English courses in middle school and Advanced Placement (AP) and other college-level courses in high school.

Q: My student has qualified for the Highly Capable Program but will need to move schools. Will their sibling(s) be able to change schools with them?

A: Many of our schools are closed to transfers due to space availability. You will need to submit a transfer request form for the sibling(s) and indicate on the form that they have a sibling in HC. This does not guarantee that the sibling will be able to transfer with them.

Q: Do I need to let the teacher know that my student is taking the Highly Capable test so they can submit a referral form?

A: No, our office reaches out to teachers for the referral process. You can, however, reach out to the teacher to discuss whether your student might be a good fit for the program.

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 you attend a private school, are homeschooled, or are moving from out of state, your student is eligible to test with proof of residency within the Everett Public Schools district boundary. Please email rhowe@everettsd.org for more information.

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

A: We have a commitment that we will place each qualifying student. We're not always able to have a full class with just one grade level of students, and this is how we're able to serve all those who are eligible. Our teachers do a fantastic job of differentiating their instruction. Younger students learn from the older students, and likewise the older students benefit from sharing insights with their younger peers.

Q: Which bus will my Highly Capable student take?

A: In August, our Transportation Department will send information about a designated bus pick-up/drop-off area near your home.

Q: If a student enters the Highly Capable program in 2nd or 3rd 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 the scores?

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