

Wahkiakum School District

Highly Capable Programs

Program Descriptions,
Referral Form & Parent Permission

DUE DATE: March 30, 2026

Wahkiakum School District
500 S. 3rd B398
Cathlamet, WA 98612
360.795.3971

Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program Descriptions

Definition: Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, and/or creative productivity within a specific domain. These students are present not only in the general populace, but are present within all protected classes.

| Grades Served: K-2 | Brief Description |
|----------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten: Teachers differentiate and provide extensions in reading and math within the classroom setting. • 1st & 2nd Grades: Teachers differentiate and provide extensions in reading and math within the classroom setting. • Inquiry & Project Based Learning • Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning |
| Grades Served: 3-5 | Brief Description |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated instruction and accelerated curriculum based on student abilities. • Inquiry & Project Based Learning • Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning |
| Grades Served: 6-8 | Brief Description |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Accelerated Curriculum – Math & ELA · Differentiated Instruction · Algebra at 8th Grade · Inquiry & Project Based Learning · Integration of Technology for Accelerated Learning |
| Grades Served: 9-10 | Brief Description |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Differentiated Instruction · College & Career Readiness Advisor assigned to each identified student to guide them in class, career, and educational options available. · Honors, AP, College in the High School |
| Grades Served: 10-12 | Brief Description |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · AP / Honors/ College in the High School / Online Classes Available · Running Start is available for eligible 11th & 12th grade students. · College & Career Readiness Advisor assigned to each identified student to guide them in class, career, and educational options available. |

Referral Process

Who can initially refer students to highly capable testing?

Anyone may refer a student for testing for the Highly Capable Program. Referrals can come from parents, teachers, school specialists, friends, family, community members, or even the student themselves. These forms are attached to this document and available at <http://www.wahksd.k12.wa.us>.

Referral Timeline

The referral forms (attached) are available on line or in each school office.

Parent Referral Forms and Permissions

All parents (if not the originator of the referral form) must complete a Referral Form and give permission for the student to be tested and potentially placed in Highly Capable Programs. The form is attached to this handout and available on-line.

Teacher Referrals & Feedback Forms

Teachers complete a *Teacher Referral & Feedback Form* for every one of their students that have been referred for testing. These are available online or in each school office.

Screening, Assessments & Selection Process

Screening: Students nominated for highly capable programs use one or more of the following:

➤ **Achievement Test Scores**

· **Grades K-5:**

- Teacher Referral, District Assessments (2nd, 5th or by referral), and other Assessment Data

· **Grades 6-12:**

- District and Statewide assessments: students must meet or exceed standard.

➤ **Creativity:** Creativity is assessed via Renzulli-Hartman scale that is completed as part of the teacher feedback form.

Assessment: The district will look at multiple data points including cognitive tests, academic achievement tests and parent referrals.

Selection: A ***Multi-Disciplinary Team*** consisting of teachers, school administrator, and school psychologist/building assessment coordinator or other qualified practitioner trained in the interpretation of assessment results is convened to review the above mentioned data and make final selection decisions.

Testing Process & Testing Dates

Grade K-12: The identification process will take place during the middle of March through the beginning of June.

Notification

Parents are tentatively scheduled to be **notified via mail or phone by the end of June**. Once a student has qualified for highly capable programs, they do not need to test again. If parents have any questions about placement, they are directed to call Stephanie Leitz at 360.795.3271.

Appeals

Appeals: Appeals are considered annually for students who did not meet the criteria. The ***Multi-disciplinary Team*** will examine provided evidence of high ability and need for program placement. Parents must contact the Highly Capable office at (509) 836.8732 to receive an appeal form. **The deadline for appeals is 10 school days after receipt of the placement notification letter.**

Outside testing: Private testing as well as testing from other districts is accepted for appeal review.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer in from out-of-district and have qualified in their former district's highly capable program **are not** automatically enrolled. Test scores and placement letters from the students' previous district may be used as long as they meet the placement criteria for the Wahkiakum School District.

Note: When a student, who is a child of a military family in transition, has been assessed or enrolled as highly capable by a sending school, the receiving school shall initially honor placement of the student into a like program.

Characteristics of Gifted Children

Observing gifted characteristics is often difficult when we are dealing with obviously bright children. The chart below is helpful in seeing the subtle differences between the bright child and the gifted learner.

| Bright Child | Gifted Learner |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Knows the answers | Asks the questions |
| Is interested | Is highly curious |
| Is attentive | Is mentally and physically involved |
| Answers the questions | Discusses in detail, elaborates |
| Top group | Beyond the group |
| Listens with interest | Shows strong feelings and opinions |
| Learns with ease | Already knows |
| 6-8 repetitions for mastery | 1-2 repetitions for mastery |
| Understand ideas | Constructs abstractions |
| Enjoys peers | Prefers adults |
| Grasps the meaning | Draws inferences |
| Is receptive | Is intense |
| Copies accurately | Creates a new design |
| Enjoys school | Enjoys learning |
| Absorbs information | Manipulates information |
| Technician | Inventor |
| Good memorizer | Good guesser |
| Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation | Thrives on complexity |
| Is alert | Is keenly observant |
| Is pleased with own learning | Is highly self-critical |

What Does Highly Capable Mean?

Being Highly Capable means having extraordinary ability or potential in intellect, academic aptitude or creative thinking.

Some examples include:

- * Advanced vocabulary
- * Curiosity (asks endless questions)
- * Sophisticated sense of humor
- * Experiments with ideas
- * Advanced creativity

Notice of Non-Discrimination/Title IX

The Wahkiakum School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.260 compliance officer at (360)795.3971. The address is 500 S. 3rd B398, Cathlamet, WA 98612.

**Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program
REFERRAL FORM and Parent Permission to Test**

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the information below and return to your child's building principal.

☐ K-5 Program ☐ 6-8 Program ☐ 9-12 Program

STUDENT INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Student Name: | Grade: |
| School: | Teacher: |

Person Completing this Referral

| |
|--|
| Name: |
| Relation to Student: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Parent Permission: I give permission for my child to participate in testing for the Highly Capable Program.

| | | |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| Parent Signature: | Date: | Student Birthdate: |
| Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip): | | Phone: |

Please respond to the statements below by marking the number that best represents the student. Additional information regarding a student’s exceptional ability, achievement and/or creativity may be submitted with this application.

To what extent are the following characteristics typical of the student being nominated?

Circle appropriate number beside each phrase.

- 1. Constantly asks questions 1 2 3 4 5
- 2. Offers unusual responses..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 3. Likes to try new things..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 4. Learns easily and quickly..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 5. Creates original ideas and products..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 6. Has many interests, hobbies and collections..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 7. Is bored with routine tasks..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 8. Uses advanced vocabulary..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 9. Enjoys complex tasks..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 10. Displays a keen sense of humor..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 11. Intense; gets totally into tasks or thoughts..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 12. Relates easily to adults and older peers..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 13. Sense of fairness..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 14. Works well independently..... 1 2 3 4 5
- 15. Unusually persistent in his/her interest of a topic..... 1 2 3 4 5

Additional comments (if needed):

Wahkiakum School District Highly Capable Program
Parent Permission to Place

☐ **K-5 Program** ☐ **6-8 Program** ☐ **9-12 Program**

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School: _____ Teacher: _____

By signing this form, you are giving Wahkiakum School District permission to place your child in the district's Highly Capable Program. You are also acknowledging that you have read and are aware of all the program elements to include: program descriptions, referral process, screening, assessments and selection process, appeal procedures, transfer students and exit procedures which were included in the referral packet and can be found on our website.

Parent Permission (Only complete if you are the parent): I give Wahkiakum School District permission to test and place my child in the Highly Capable Program if he/she qualifies.

Print Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____