

Chehalis School District Highly Capable Program

The Washington State Legislature passed a law (WAC 392-170) that requires all school districts to identify and serve their "most highly capable" students and provide a continuum of services to those students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Definition of Highly Capable Student

A student who has been assessed to have superior intellectual ability as demonstrated by one or more of the multiple criteria specified in WAC 392-170-040. These students exhibit high capability in intellectual and/or creative areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields, thereby requiring services beyond the basic programs provided by schools.

Program Design

The Chehalis School District Highly Capable Program is designed to meet the academic needs of our students in grades K-12 who fall **generally in the top 2 percentiles** for cognitive aptitude.

Elementary Programs K-5

In grades K-5 highly capable services include placement in cluster classrooms with identified teachers who are provided professional development in differentiating instruction for highly capable learners.

Middle School and High School Programs 6-12

At the middle school, highly capable services generally include differentiation in class; entrance into all advanced courses, which can count for high school credit; and multiple enrichment field trips throughout the year. In the high school levels, highly capable support services generally include differentiation in all classrooms, Honors, Advanced Placement, and College in the Classroom offerings. In middle and high school all teachers are encouraged to use their knowledge of highly capable characteristics and needs to best support their students.

Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC):

The role of the MSC is to determine the final selection of students to be placed in the Highly Capable Program according to WAC 392-170. The MSC will be comprised of:

1. Classroom teacher with training and expertise in teaching Highly Capable students
2. Trained Assessment Proctor
3. District Assessment Coordinator
4. Building Principal

Nomination

Nominations for all potential Highly Capable students for the 2021-22 school year will be accepted October 18 through November 1, 2021. Nomination forms are available in each school office or can be downloaded from the Chehalis School District web site www.chehalisschools.org. All completed nomination forms must be returned to the school office before the end of the day on November 1st. The District Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC) will notify parents of the nominations and obtain written permission for further assessing.

Chehalis School District students that are currently identified as a Highly Capable student do not need to be tested again.

Assessment

Parent and teacher forms are screened for examples of exceptional creativity, or other learning characteristics that indicate high intellectual potential.

Nominated students will be assessed using the Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) assessment. The CogAT assesses in Verbal, Quantitative, and Non-Verbal areas. This assessment will be administered during the week of November 15th.

Notification to Parents

After the MSC's review of November's test results, a letter will be sent to parents notifying them of their child's qualifying or non-qualifying status.

Appeals Process

An appeals process is available for the results of the November testing. If you would like to appeal this decision, your written request must be delivered to your student's building principal.