

# SKAMANIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Highly Capable Program*

Program Description

**Parent**

Referral Form and Permission Packet

***DUE DATE: October 13, 2023***

Skamania School District  
Highly Capable Program  
122 Butler Loop Rd  
Stevenson, WA 98648  
509-427-8239

Superintendent  
Milt Dennison

Head Teacher  
Katie Chavarria

## Skamania School District Highly Capable Program Description

**Definition:** Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at a significantly advanced academic level 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 productivities within a specific domain. To be identified for highly capable services in Skamania School District, a student must obtain a stanine score of 9 (A stanine is a reporting scheme or a way of ranking student performance on a test, based on an equal interval of 1 to 9) or above on a standardized IQ assessment. Use of multiple objective assessments measures will be used for those at stanine score of 7 or 8.

Grades Served: K-8	Brief Description
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- Differentiated instruction within the classroom
- Optional subject-specific grade level acceleration
- Utilization of technology for accelerated tasks
- STEM-based activities specific to student interests
- Inquiry and project based learning

### *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 [www.skamaniashooldistrict.org](http://www.skamaniashooldistrict.org).

#### *Referral Timeline*

The referral forms (attached) for the 2023-24 school year placements are available online or in the 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 receive services in Highly Capable Programs. The form is attached to this handout and available online at [www.skamaniashooldistrict.org](http://www.skamaniashooldistrict.org).

#### *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 at [www.skamaniashooldistrict.org](http://www.skamaniashooldistrict.org). or in the school office.

**All referral forms, parent permissions and teacher referral forms are due to the school office by October 13 for this school year.**

## ***Screening, Assessments & Selection Process***

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

➤ **Achievement Test Scores**

• **Grades K-2:**

CogAT Screener

DIBELS

iReady

• **Grades 3-8:**

CogAT Screener

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

DIBELS

iReady

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

**Assessment:** Students identified during the screening process may participate in the CogAT Assessment, based on multidisciplinary teams' decisions.

**Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT):** To be automatically identified for highly capable services in Skamania School District, a student must obtain a stanine score of 9 (A stanine is a reporting scheme or a way of ranking student performance on a test, based on an equal interval of 1 to 9). Use of multiple objective assessments measures will be used for those at a stanine score of 7 or 8.

**Selection:** A ***Multi--Disciplinary Team*** consisting of teachers, coordinators, and school administration is convened to review the above mentioned data and make final selection decisions.

# *Testing Process & Testing Dates*

## *(for 2023-2024 Placement)*

**Grade K-12:** Testing will take place at school on October 23.

### *Notification*

Student's work on the CogAT will be submitted on the day of testing. Once results arrive in the district, the **Multi-disciplinary Team** must meet to review results and make placement decisions. Schools and parents are tentatively scheduled to be **notified via mail by November 15**. 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 Katie Chavarria at 509-427-8239.

### *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 school at 509-427-8239 to receive an appeal form. **The deadline for appeals is 3 weeks after receipt of the placement notification letter.**

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

### *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.

<b>Bright Child</b>	<b>Gifted Learner</b>
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 (gifted learner) 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

### **DISCRIMINATION**

Skamania School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Milt Dennison, Title IX Officer, 122 Butler Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648

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

***DIRECTIONS:*** Please complete the information below and return to Katie Chavarria by October 13.

***STUDENT INFORMATION***

Student Name:	Grade:
School:	Teacher:

***Person Completing this Referral***

<b><i>Name:</i></b>
<b><i>Relation to Student:</i></b>

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

<b>Parent Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Student Birthdate:</b>
<b>Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip):</b>		<b>Phone:</b>

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.**

	Almost Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Almost Always
1. Constantly asks question.....	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):

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