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It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that all students will be afforded the opportunity to reach their potential and graduate from high school ready for college, career, and life. As such, all Highly Capable students and Advanced Learners will have equitable access to academically challenging and appropriate programs and services. The Board also recognizes, consistent with the definition of basic education under state law, that students capable of performing at significantly advanced academic levels require specialized services in order to meet their basic educational needs.

The framework for such programs or services will encompass, but is not limited to, the following objectives:

- A. Expansion of students' academic and intellectual skills in every year of education;
- B. Stimulation of students' intellectual curiosity, independence and responsibility;
- C. Development of students' social and emotional wellbeing; and
- D. Development of students' originality and creativity.

#### Highly Capable Students

Consistent with state law, the District identifies and provides instructional programs and services for students identified as Highly Capable 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 demonstrated through students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities or achievements, and/or creative productivities within a specific domain.

#### Services for Highly Capable

The variety of instructional programs or services for students identified as Highly Capable will include pathways to sites with adequate cohorts of Highly Capable students in order to provide peer learning and social/emotional opportunities for these students, teachers with experience and/or professional development on the academic and social/emotional needs of these students, appropriate curriculum, appropriately differentiated instruction, deeper learning opportunities, and accelerated pacing. Consistent with state law, once services are started, a continuum of services shall be provided to the student, from grades K-12. A self-contained cohort option is available in grades 1-8. Highly Capable students who

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choose not to participate at a designated Highly Capable site will be served through Advanced Learning programs.

Annually, the Superintendent shall provide the Board the Highly Capable plan application required by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This plan will include the following: the number of students the District expects to serve by grade level, the District’s plan for identifying students, a description of the Highly Capable services goals, a description of the services offered, a description of ongoing professional development for Highly Capable Services and general education staff, a service evaluation and fiscal report, and assurances that the district is legally compliant.

Advanced Learners

The District identifies and provides appropriate instructional programs and services for students who demonstrate high academic achievement, but who do not meet the definition of Highly Capable. Such students are identified as Advanced Learners.

Programs for Advanced Learners

Advanced Learning instructional programs will include differentiation, content acceleration, and deeper learning opportunities. Delivery mechanisms may include: differentiated instruction, groupings of Advanced Learning students to work together in subjects or on projects, self-contained classrooms, or accelerated pacing.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures consistent with state guidelines regarding referral, evaluation, and identification of Highly Capable students in order to implement this policy. The procedures will describe the programs and services available to students identified as Highly Capable as well as to those identified as Advanced Learners.

Adopted: December 2014

Cross Reference: Policy Nos. A 01.00, 2090, 2200

Related Superintendent Procedure: 2190SP

Previous Policies: D12.00

Legal References: RCW 28A.185.030 Programs — Authority of local school districts — Selection of students; WAC 392-170 Special service program — Highly Capable students

Management Resources: *Policy & Legal News*, September 2013