

Highly Capable Program FAQ's

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 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.

Q: Does my student have to take the CogAT & ITBS test's every year to remain in the Highly Capable 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: 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 you feel that 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: When will we receive the scores?

A: If testing begins in February, our office will send out the scores in mid-April

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 test again for middle school?

A: No, there is not a Highly Capable Program in middle school. Students will be eligible to take accelerated courses such as AP and Honors. You will receive more information about this at your middle school orientation or you may contact your designated middle school counselor.

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 Highly Capable. 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: 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: 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: Will the Highly Capable test be given in person even if students have not returned to school due to COVID?

A: Yes, if we are given approval from the Snohomish Health District. If this is the case, we will be intentional about utilizing safety protocols that *exceed* the recommendations at that time by the Health District and OSPI. The safety of our students and families is our top priority! We guarantee that it will be much safer than the other life activities we engage in like going to the store or visiting a business, etc. As the date gets closer, we'll keep you informed of our safety plans in advance. 😊