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**PROGRAMS FOR HIGHLY-CAPABLE STUDENTS**

The following procedures will be employed to nominate, assess and select students to participate in the Program for Academically Talented Students (PATS):

**NOMINATION**

Anyone may nominate a child to the program, including teachers, other staff, parents, students and members of the community. Nominators will be sent the District's nomination form to recommend a child for consideration in the program.

**ASSESSMENT**

The District will screen each nominee using the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) and the Cognitive Aptitude Test (CogAT) or other cognitive ability measures to identify students who qualify for further assessment.

Prior to conducting assessment(s), the Program Coordinator will obtain written parental permission.

Nominees identified through the screening process will be assessed using multiple criteria from a variety of sources and data, including tests that measure cognitive ability, academic achievement and evidence of exceptional creativity (WAC 392-170-055). Students will need to have scored in the top 10% in cognitive ability and the top 5% in academic achievement to be considered for PATS.

**SELECTION**

A multi-disciplinary selection team composed of a District administrator, psychologist or other individual who can interpret cognitive and achievement test results, and a teacher, will review data that has been collected for each of the nominated students. They will select those students who would receive the most benefit from participating in the program. The District will:

- A) Notify parents of students who have been selected. Parents will receive a full explanation of the procedures for identification and a description of the program;
- B) Obtain parental permission to provide services and programs;
- C) Schedule a meeting of all such parents;
- D) Conduct an annual parent meeting to review each student's educational plan.
- E) Offer a PATS referral period that will begin the week following spring break and run for four weeks; and,
- F) Conduct cognitive testing in late May and early June.

**PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR HIGHLY-CAPABLE STUDENTS ENTERING DURING THE COURSE OF A SCHOOL YEAR**

- A) A parent or guardian enrolling a new student in the Olympia School District who has participated in a highly capable program at his or her previous school should check the "Gifted" box on the student registration form.
- B) The secretary at the receiving school will enter this student in the "Highly Capable Transfer" field in the Skyward student database.
- C) The secretary or principal at the receiving school will contact the PATS Coordinator to bring this student to his or her attention.
- D) The PATS Coordinator will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the PATS program, request previous cognitive and academic testing scores and other

information necessary for a placement determination, and seek permission if Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is needed. (Note: Although the Cognitive Aptitude Test (CogAT) is only administered in the Olympia School District to students nominated for PATS in the spring in order to ensure controlled and equal testing conditions, previous cognitive test results will be used in the placement determination. If no cognitive test has previously been taken, the student will be assessed for placement using other measures.)

- E) The parent or guardian will be asked to provide written documentation of the student's previous participation in a highly-capable program. A teacher evaluation form may be sent to the previous school if further information is desired.
- F) The PATS class size at any grade level will be 18 students with an allowance to accommodate qualified students, i.e., those entering during the school year whose composite scores are higher than the student with the highest scores on the waiting list for a given class. Beyond this, a class is considered "full" and no additional students will be added unless space is created by the withdrawal of a current student. Students entering during the school year, whose scores are not higher than the highest score of students on the waiting list, will be placed appropriately on that waiting list.

**PROGRAM DESIGN**

The District will offer highly-capable students the following programs:

The Program for Academically Talented Students (PATS) is for children who have advanced skills in reading, mathematics, and language arts. Approximately 144 students from grades two through five are selected to spend one full day session each week in a special class working on activities and projects designed to challenge highly-capable students. The program was developed in 1975 and now includes two sites, each with its own instructor, and serves children who reside within the Olympia School District. Funding for the PATS program comes from two sources. Approximately 80% of the funding comes from the Olympia School District budget, with the remainder coming from the State of Washington General Fund.

The Olympia School District recognizes that highly capable children have unique emotional, social and academic needs that may need to be nurtured in a specialized learning environment. PATS provides opportunities for children to interact with their intellectual peers on a regular basis to explore, experience and express ideas with special emphasis on problem-solving and higher-level thinking processes.

Each individual student or group of students with similar needs served in PATS will have a program plan. Services will be made available based on that plan and include a continuum of services.

**REPORTING**

The Superintendent or designee will provide an end-of-the-year report to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).



*PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED April 2010*