



December 10, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Auburn School District offers a variety of services to address the accelerated learning needs of our highly capable students at all grade levels (K-12). Most students identified as highly capable will participate in services at their home school.

Students identified as highly capable are eligible for services through graduation from high school. Information regarding the identification process, timelines and services offered is listed on the reverse of this letter and on the Auburn School District website.

The Auburn School District remains committed to open enrollment in honors and advanced placement classes for all students who wish to challenge themselves regardless of highly capable status.

If you have additional questions please contact the Department of Student Learning at 253-931-4950.

Sincerely

Adam Ladage  
Director of Student Learning 8-12  
Auburn School District

# Highly Capable Programs Descriptions and Selection Process

## **Highly Capable Selection**

Each year, the Auburn School District opens a referral window for screening and nominating potential students for highly capable program selection. You can disregard this notice if your student has already participated in the identification process and been identified as highly capable in the Auburn School District. Once a student is identified as highly capable, he/she is entitled to Highly Capable program services from the date of eligibility through graduation; annual testing is not required. The identification process for Highly Capable programs is as follows:

1. Screening Criteria for High Achieving students (**90<sup>th</sup> percentile and above**) as identified through district standard assessments. **September 6-November 16, 2018**
2. Referrals accepted during open nomination window for students not meeting the above screening criteria. **December 3, 2018 - January 11, 2019**
3. Permission to Test/Characteristics/Creativity Rating from parent/guardian **due January 11, 2019.**
4. CogAT assessment administered **January 14, 2019 - February 8, 2019.**
5. Highly Capable Identification Meeting. **April 3, 2019**
6. Parent/guardians notified of student selection. **Notification Letters sent by April 19, 2019.**
7. Parental permission to provide services and programs obtained **due May 10, 2019.**

Anyone may refer a child to the program, including teachers, other staff, parents, students, and members of the community. Referral forms are available online and in all elementary counseling offices. If you wish to refer your child, you may download the form from your school's website, pick one up at the school counseling office, or contact your school to request a form be sent home to recommend your child for consideration to the program.

## **Elementary Programs**

### ***First-Fifth Grade PACE (Program for Accelerated and Clustered Education)***

Highly Capable programs are offered at each of our fourteen elementary schools. In a cluster group model, Highly Capable students are placed together in grade level general education classrooms. Above grade level core curricula is delivered to this group as needed by a trained teacher. In walk to read/walk to math models, highly capable students shown to need above grade level instruction in core content areas walk to classrooms in the school for this instruction at their assessed level of need.

### ***Fourth and Fifth Grade STEP (Student Teacher Enrichment Program)***

The Auburn School District has a unique program that serves exceptionally intelligent, intellectually gifted 4th and 5th grade students whose needs may not be easily met in the general classroom. Since the 1970s, the STEP (student teacher enrichment program) has provided specific instruction to these academically talented students. STEP is a self-contained program located at Terminal Park Elementary.

## **Secondary Programs**

### ***Middle School PACE (Program for Accelerated and Clustered Education) Honors and Acceleration***

Students selected for highly capable programs may be placed in Honors or Pre-AP classes in cohort groups for their core ELA or Social Studies course. Students requiring above grade level instruction in mathematics and science (if available) will be placed in appropriate accelerated courses.

### ***High School PACE (Program for Accelerated and Clustered Education) Honors, Acceleration***

The Auburn School District offers an individualized program based on highly capable student needs which may include: High School Honors courses, Advanced Placement Courses, Advanced Career and Technical Education courses, University in the High School, Running Start, and Online learning experiences.

If you have questions about Highly Capable programs, contact or child's counselor or Adam Ladage, Student Learning 8-12, [aladage@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:aladage@auburn.wednet.edu), 253-931-4950