



## Highly Capable Programs Descriptions and Selection Process

Translations (Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Marshallese, Dari and Punjabi) available on the Highly Capable website: [Translated Documents](#)

### **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. Referrals accepted during open nomination window for students not meeting the above screening criteria. **January 6th, 2025 - February 14, 2025**
2. Permission to Test/Characteristics/Creativity Rating from parent/guardian **due February 14, 2025**
3. CogAT assessment administered **February 24, 2025 - March 28, 2025**
4. A multi-disciplinary selection team composed of district administrators, building principal(s) and counselors will review data that has been collected for each of the referred students. **April 3, 2025**
5. Parent/guardians notified of student selection. **Notification Letters sent by April 18, 2025**
6. Parental permission to provide services (permission to place) form **due May 14, 2025**
7. **Appeals due May 14, 2025**

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 sixteen 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 and Willow Crest 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 your child's counselor or Adam Ladage, Student Learning 8-12, [aladage@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:aladage@auburn.wednet.edu), 253-931-4950



## *Elementary Programs for Highly Capable Students*

### ***Program Description:***

#### ***PACE***

Highly Capable programs are offered at each of our sixteen elementary schools. Most students identified as highly capable will be served in their home school in a PACE (Program for Accelerated and Clustered Education) program. 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 model, 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.

#### ***STEP***

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 or PACE programs. Since the 1970s, the STEP (student teacher enrichment program) has provided specific instruction to these academically talented students.

### ***Selection:***

Each year, the Auburn School District opens a referral window for screening and nominating potential students for highly capable program selection. 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 current identification process for Highly Capable programs is as follows:

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## ***Secondary Programs for Highly Capable Students***

### ***Program Description:***

#### ***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, Advanced Placement***

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.

### ***Selection:***

Each year, the Auburn School District opens a referral window for screening and nominating potential students for highly capable program selection. 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 current identification process for Highly Capable programs is as follows:

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Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Marshallese, Dari, and Punjabi translations available on the ASD website Highly Capable Page: [Highly Capable Forms](#)

**PART I: PERMISSION TO TEST**

**RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL COUNSELOR BY FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_

Home School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Apt. City Zip Code

EMAIL Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission Granted  Denied

**You must also fill out Part II on the back.**

**PART II: Complete only if permission granted above**

**Highly Capable Program Characteristic/Creativity Rating Scale**

The use of criteria for identification of highly capable students is a valid and necessary procedure. However, the defined criteria are generalizations and individuals might not conform to all of these generalizations. Please rate the student for each area for each criterion.

	Almost Always True	Often True	Sometimes True	Seldom True	Almost Never True
Advanced vocabulary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advanced reading level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can move quickly from understanding the simple to the more complex and the concrete to the more abstract	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shows interest in and curiosity about a large number and variety of objects and ideas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finds opportunities for initiating and creating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is alert and keenly observant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Can draw from within self the knowledge of how a problem is to be solved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creativity revealed in writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creativity revealed in music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creativity revealed in art	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is able to retrieve facts from previously taught information easily and quickly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recognizes academic relationships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comprehends meanings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Makes logical associations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exhibits a need to know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Exhibits a desire to excel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exhibits original ideas or approaches in problem-solving tasks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learns easily and quickly with little needed from the teacher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does mental tasks of a high degree of complexity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is able to solve complex math problems efficiently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has an ability to select from learning opportunities or establish own learning goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Displays a keen sense of humor or wit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has the ability to anticipate and the skill to predict what may happen in a story, game, or experiment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Displays intellectual curiosity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reason for Highly Capable Selection Committee to consider your child for further testing:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_