

**Loogootee Community School Corporation**  
**High Ability Plan**  
**March 2017**

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of Loogootee Community School Corporation High Ability Program to identify high ability students and provide for their academic and intellectual growth through varied curricular offerings.

It is the mission of this corporation to maximize the academic potential of students, K-12, who show or have the potential to show academic achievement or talent beyond their chronological peers regardless of the student's socioeconomic, cultural, or ethnic background. Teachers, administrators and the community as a whole will work together to ensure these needs are met.

**Definition of Giftedness/High Ability**

Gifted students, K-12, perform at or have the potential to perform at an outstanding level of accomplishment in at least one domain when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment.

**Program Goals**

1. Identify students who qualify for curriculum modified to meet the needs of the high ability population.
2. Implement a Broad-Based planning committee to design and monitor the continuous development and implementation of the levels of service program for high ability students. The committee must consist of community member, student, parent, other stakeholder, but not limited to, teachers, administrators, school board member, school counselor, and high ability coordinator.
3. Implement a multifaceted, on-going identification plan and procedures to select students, grade K-12, who might qualify as high ability.
4. Provide training to staff on methods to be used to meet the needs of high ability students.
  - a. Devote teacher-training time to best teaching practices for maximizing the potential of high ability students.
5. Provide appropriate curriculum for high ability students.
  - a. Place high ability students with teachers who demonstrate exceptional performance with differentiated instruction.
  - b. Implement teaching strategies in the classroom that align with the learning styles of high ability students.
  - c. Execute service options which will meet the academic needs of high ability students through differentiation, acceleration and other enrichment options.
  - d. Plan and teach curriculum aligned with the Understand by Design Curriculum Model.

6. Evaluate and modify the High Ability Program
  - a. Broad Based Planning Committee will conduct a survey. The committee will determine and execute the best programming options for high ability students.
7. Provide for the unique emotional needs of high ability students
  - a. Counseling services will be made available for high ability students.
  - b. Integrate acceptance, understanding, and appreciation for giftedness into the school atmosphere.

### **Program Description**

High Ability students are serviced in the general education classroom with differentiated instruction, Understanding by Design Curriculum Model, Bloom's Taxonomy and higher-order thinking skills.

Those students selected to the high ability program will be identified based on procedures outlined in this policy. High ability students will be offered unique experiences to maximize their learning potential. Students will be involved in whole class, small group, and individual projects. Students will be encouraged to discuss, explore, and solve on their own. Those academically talented students in grades K-12 who meet the criteria for high ability will be identified on the STN site.

### **Scope of High Ability Program**

Although much of the identification for the High Ability Program occurs during the elementary grades, a teacher or parent at any grade level (K-12) may petition that a student be tested for identification as a High Ability Student. In addition, service options will be available for students throughout their academic career in Loogootee Community Schools.

### **Service Options**

1. Primary grades (K-2)
  - a. Early entrance to Kindergarten
  - b. Language Arts cluster grouping with a teacher suited to teach students with high ability in language arts.
  - c. Curriculum compacting and differentiation for students showing high ability in mathematics
  - d. Differentiation strategies in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - e. Reading tier in grades K-2 for high ability students focusing on higher level thinking skills and project-based learning.
  - f. Math tier in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade focusing on higher level thinking skills and project based learning.
2. Upper-elementary grades (3-5)
  - a. Grade skipping
  - b. Language Arts cluster grouping with a teacher suited to teach students with high ability in language.

- c. Curriculum compacting and differentiation for students showing high ability in mathematics.
  - d. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions, such as Spell bowl (grades 4-5)
  - e. Reading tier in grades 3-5 for high ability students focusing on higher level thinking skills and project-based learning.
  - f. Math tier in grades 3-5 for high ability students focusing on higher level thinking skills and project based learning.
3. Middle school grades (6-8)
- a. Advance placement for students entering middle school with high ability math needs.
  - b. Advance placement for students entering middle school with high ability language arts needs.
  - c. Advance placement for students entering middle school with high ability science needs.
  - d. Advance placement for students entering middle school with high ability social studies needs.
  - e. Differentiated strategies used in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - f. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions
4. High school grades (9-12)
- a. Opportunity for earn college credit through AP courses in English 11, Studio Art, and US History
  - b. Opportunity for Honors English 10, Advanced Composition Honors, English Literature Honors
  - c. Opportunity to earn dual credit in Chemistry I & II, Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Biology, Plant and Animal Biology, English 10, College Algebra, Calculus, Spanish III & IV, French I & II, Accounting, Business, Computer, Psychology.
  - d. Students are allowed to take online college courses during the school day.
  - e. Differentiated strategies used in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - f. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions

### **Screening Procedure**

Screening will also be administered under the following circumstances:

1. A student transfers into the Corporation, who has never been previously enrolled
2. A student is recommended by his/her classroom teacher or parent

The following quantitative measures will be used as identification procedures to identify those students who need further eligibility determination for high ability identification and programming:

1. Group Administered Test- All tests will be evaluated with consideration to standard error of measurement
  - a. All Kindergarten will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - b. All Second Grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - c. All Fourth Grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - d. All Sixth Grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - e. The top 20-30% of those students not selected based on the CoGat test will be given the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

### **Eligibility Determination & Placement**

An identification team consisting of the elementary principals and the high ability coordinator will meet to review each student's CoGat and ITBS scores. The team will decide, based on need, what programming options would be beneficial for each student and what could be feasible for the school corporation.

### **Petitioning Procedure for High Ability Programming:**

The petitioning procedure is for students who are not currently identified to receive high ability programming or have been dismissed from the High Ability Program. Parents have nine weeks after the start of the school to appeal the decision if his or her child was not identified as a high ability student. The final date to submit a petition will be the official day in which the first grading period ends. If the student was dismissed from the High Ability Program, parents have nine weeks from the final dismissal decision to petition.

There will be a petitioning procedure. It states the following:

1. The first step is to initiate a meeting with your child's classroom teacher. Inform the teacher of your intent to petition the decision that your child was not identified to receive high ability programming or that you are petitioning the decision that your child was dismissed from high ability programming.

2. Once the teacher receives the notification of a petition, he or she should contact the school principal and set up a conference.

3. If the issue has still not been resolved, a conference shall be held with the identification team and the following qualitative measures may be examined:

- Teacher Rating

- Identification team examines the rating to determine if the student displays characteristics of a high ability student

- Parent Evaluation

- Parents provide responses to an interest survey about their child

- See Appendix A

- May utilize Recognizing Gifted Potential as a qualitative measure

- An identification team (consisting of the principal, classroom teacher representatives, the high ability coordinator, and at least two other specialists in the school corporation) will examine the answers to see if the student displays

characteristics of a high ability student. The team examines each student's CoGat and ITBS scores, the teacher evaluation, parent questionnaire, and their portfolio.

4. If the issue still has not been resolved, it shall be taken to the school board during the next school board meeting.
5. Parents or School Corporation can then choose after this step to contact the state education agency and initiate a formal hearing.

#### **Additional Instrumentation for Petitioning Procedure**

See Appendix A and E

1. The petitioning person (classroom teacher or parent) compiles a portfolio of student's work demonstrating that student's strengths in math, language arts, or creativity.
2. The high ability coordinator receives the portfolio and adds any additional material from the student's records that show evidence of exceptional performances (past test scores, grades, awards, honors, etc.). The coordinator also adds any notes about special circumstances (limited English proficiency, etc.)

#### **Expectation of Student Behavior and Performance in the High Ability Program**

1. The student will be an active participant in classroom discussions and activities.
2. The student will complete projects and work assigned by the High Ability teacher.
3. The student will behave in a manner that is not disruptive to the education of the other students in the class.

#### **Exit Procedure**

When a teacher notices that a particular student identified as high ability is not meeting the standards of the High Ability Program, he or she will hold a conference with the student, parent(s), and any other person who may be of relevance to the conference (administration, support staff).

1. All parties present will discuss possible modifications to the current curricular to improve student performance. The teacher will complete an education intervention form within one week of the conference and provide copies to all who were present. See Appendix B and C.
2. Once the educational intervention has been completed (at least one grading period) the teacher will determine further action as follows:
  - a. If the student's progress has improved enough to continue with the current high ability programming, the teacher will meet with student and parent(s) to follow-up.
  - b. If the student still does not meet the standards after the education intervention, the teacher will conference with the parent, the high ability coordinator, school administrator, and the student. At this conference, a decision will be made as to the best placement of the student (removal from cluster group, different classroom, removal from special program, etc.) The Dismissal for

from High Ability Programming with be completed and copies provided to the parents, Principal and high ability coordinator. See Appendix D

**Timeline**

May	June	August	November	January	March	April
Screening and Identification	Placement	Begin High Ability Services	Revisit Identification Procedures	Revise Or Clarify procedures	Survey Parents of High Ability and Students	Review of High Ability Policy

May: Screen and identify students who qualify for high ability, decide which programs or services will best meet each student’s educational needs. Inform the parents of the placement made.

June: For each student who is identified as high ability, decide which programs or services will best meet each student’s educational needs. Inform the parents of the placement made.

August: From the beginning of the school, begin the special services and programs for the high ability students.

November: Revisit the identification procedures and decide if the students who were identified are performing at levels that distinguish them from other students who were not identified.

January: Revise or clarify existing identification procedures.

March: Survey parents of High Ability students and High Ability students to determine satisfaction with program and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses.

April: Broad-based planning committee meets to review survey and recommend policy changes.

Appendix A

Adapted from “Things My Child Likes to Do” survey posted at  
<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/pdf/thingsdo.pdf>

**“Things My Child Likes to Do”**

**To: Parents of Students in the Loogootee Community School Corporation**

**From:**

**One of the major goals of our overall school program is to provide students with an opportunity to develop his or her individual strengths and creative thinking abilities. Although the work your child does in school gives us many opportunities to observe his or her strengths and interests, the activities that your child pursues at home can also help us to find ways for enriching his or her school program. For this reason, we are asking you to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to us at your earliest convenience.**

**The attached questionnaire contains 14 items. Each of the items deals with a general type of interest or activity that you may or may not have seen in your child. To help clarify the 14 items, we have also included an example. Please keep in mind that each example is included only to help clarify the meaning of the item. In other words, you should remember that you are rating your child on each of the 14 general items rather than the specific example.**

**If you should have any questions about this questionnaire, please contact the person whose name and telephone are listed below. We very much appreciate your assistance in helping us to provide the best possible educational program for your child.**

**Sincerely,**

**Phone Number:**

**INSERT**

**“THINGS MY CHILD LIKES TO DO”**

**SURVEY**



Appendix B

**Request for Conference**

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

Dear Parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_:

I would like to conduct a conference with you and \_\_\_\_\_ about his/her progress in the high ability program. At this point in the school year, I have concerns about your child not meeting the standards set forth in the high ability program. It is my goal for all of us to work together to try and improve your child's progress. Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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Conference

Date of conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we will be able to attend the conference at the above mentioned date and time.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, this date or time will not work for me/us. I will contact you as soon as possible to try and schedule a more convenient date/time.

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Parent signature

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Date

**Conference Reminder**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear** \_\_\_\_\_ **:**

**This is a reminder that we have a conference scheduled for the following date and time. Please contact me as soon as possible to reschedule if you are no longer able to attend for any reason. Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**

**Date of conference:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**People who will be in attendance:**

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## Appendix C

### Educational Intervention

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conference \_\_\_\_\_

Current High Ability Programming:

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List the reasons for pursuing the Educational Intervention:

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Classroom Interventions to be implemented by teacher:

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Intervention to be implemented by student:

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Interventions to be implemented by parent:

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Date of follow-up conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

The date of the follow-up conference must be AT LEAST one grading period after the initial conference.

Signed:

_____ Teacher	_____ Date
_____ Student	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date

**Appendix D**

**Dismissal Form from High Ability Programming**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial conference \_\_\_\_\_

Date of follow-up conference \_\_\_\_\_

Current high ability programming:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Changes made to student's placement or identification:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

High Ability Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: The student will still be eligible for high ability services at a later date if need is determined by the procedures implemented by the school corporation.

**Loogootee Community Schools**  
**High Ability**  
**Revised March 2013**

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of Loogootee Community Schools High Ability Program to identify high ability students and provide for their academic, intellectual, social, emotional, and artistic growth through varied curricular and extra-curricular offerings.

It is the mission of this corporation to maximize the academic potential of students, K-12, who show or have the potential to show academic achievement or talent beyond their chronological peers regardless of the student's socioeconomic, cultural, or ethnic background. In addition to the regular classroom, academic opportunities, as well as opportunities to express creativity will be developed to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs. Teachers, administrators and the community as a whole will work together to ensure these needs are met.

**Definition of Giftedness/High Ability**

Gifted students, K-12, perform at or have the potential to perform at an outstanding level of accomplishment in at least one domain when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment.

**Program Goals**

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4. Provide training to staff on methods to be used to meet the needs of high ability students.
  - a. Devote teacher-training time to best teaching practices for maximizing the potential of high ability students.
5. Provide appropriate curriculum for high ability students.
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  - b. Implement teaching strategies in the classroom that align with the learning styles of high ability students.
  - c. Execute service options which will meet the academic needs of high ability students through differentiation, acceleration and other enrichment options.

- d. Plan and teach curriculum aligned with the Understand by Design Curriculum Model.
6. Evaluate and modify the High Ability Program
  - a. Broad Based Planning Committee will conduct a survey. The committee will determine and execute the best programming options for high ability students.
7. Provide for the unique emotional needs of high ability students
  - a. Counseling services will be made available for high ability students.
  - b. Integrate acceptance, understanding, and appreciation for giftedness into the school atmosphere.

### **Program Description**

The High Ability/Gifted and Talented program is in its 22nd year as a part of the Loogootee Community School Corporation. The program has gone through various changes over the course of these 20 years. The High Ability students are serviced in the general education classroom with differentiated instruction, Understanding by Design Curriculum Model, Bloom's Taxonomy and higher-order thinking skills.

Those students selected to the high ability program will be identified based on procedures outlined in this policy. High ability students will be offered unique experiences to maximize their learning potential. Students will be involved in whole class, small group, and individual projects. Students will be encouraged to discuss, explore, and solve on their own. Those academically talented students in grades K-12 who meet the criteria for high ability will be identified on the STN site.

### **Scope of High Ability Program**

Although much of the identification for the High Ability Program occurs during the elementary grades, a teacher or parent at any grade level (K-12) may petition that a student be tested for identification as a High Ability Student. In addition, service options will be available for students throughout their academic career in Loogootee Community Schools.

### **Service Options**

1. Primary grades (K-2)
  - a. Early entrance to Kindergarten
  - b. Language Arts cluster grouping with a teacher suited to teach students with high ability in language arts.
  - c. Curriculum compacting and differentiation for students showing high ability in mathematics
  - d. Differentiation strategies in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - e. Reading tier in grades K-2 for high ability students focusing on higher level thinking skills and project-based learning.
  - f. Math tier in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade focusing on higher level thinking skills and project based learning.
2. Upper-elementary grades (3-5)

- a. Grade skipping
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  - d. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions, such as Spell bowl (grades 4-5)
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  - e. Differentiated strategies used in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - f. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions
4. High school grades (9-12)
- a. Opportunity for earn college credit through AP courses in English Language and Composition, Calculus AB, Statistics, AP Calculus BC, Government, and Politics, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Biology, US History, and Art History.
  - b. Opportunity for Honors English 9, Honors English 10, Honors English 11, Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra I, Honors Biology 9
  - c. Opportunity to earn dual credit in Family and Consumer Science, Vocational classes, advanced Composition, Nutrition and Wellness, Business Foundations
  - d. Students are allowed to take online college courses during the school day.
  - e. KNOY program
  - f. Opportunities for independent study supervised by staff members
  - g. Differentiated strategies used in the classroom to meet individual needs of high ability students
  - h. Opportunity to qualify for extracurricular Academic competitions

### **Screening Procedure**

Screening will also be administered under the following circumstances:

1. A student transfers into the Corporation, who has never been previously enrolled
2. A student is recommended by his/her classroom teacher or parent



The following quantitative measures will be used as identification procedures to identify those students who need further eligibility determination for high ability identification and programming:

1. Group Administered Test- All tests will be evaluated with consideration to standard error of measurement
  - a. All Kindergarten will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - b. All Second Grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat)
  - c. All Fourth Grade students will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat) during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school year.
  - d. The top 20-30% of those students not selected based on the CoGat test will be given the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
  - e. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade preAlgebra and the top 20-30% of 6th grade math students will take the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test

### **Eligibility Determination & Placement**

An identification team consisting of the elementary principals and the high ability coordinator will meet to review each student's CoGat and ITBS scores. The team will decide, based on need, what programming options would be beneficial for each student and what could be feasible for the school corporation.

### **Petitioning Procedure for High Ability Programming:**

The petitioning procedure is for students who are not currently identified to receive high ability programming or have been dismissed from the High Ability Program. Parents have nine weeks after the start of the school to appeal the decision if his or her child was not identified as a high ability student. The final date to submit a petition will be the official day in which the first grading period ends. If the student was dismissed from the High Ability Program, parents have nine weeks from the final dismissal decision to petition.

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2. Once the teacher receives the notification of a petition, he or she should contact the school principal and set up a conference.
3. If the issue has still not been resolved, a conference shall be held with the identification team and the following qualitative measures may be examined:
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Identification team examines the rating to determine if the student displays characteristics of a high ability student

-Parent Evaluation

Parents provide responses to an interest survey about their child

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-May utilize Recognizing Gifted Potential as a qualitative measure

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1. All parties present will discuss possible modifications to the current curricular to improve student performance. The teacher will complete an education intervention form

within one week of the conference and provide copies to all who were present. See Appendix B and C.

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**Timeline**

May	June	August	November	January	March	April
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June: For each student who is identified as high ability, decide which programs or services will best meet each student’s educational needs. Inform the parents of the placement made.

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January: Revise or clarify existing identification procedures.

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April: Broad-based planning committee meets to review survey and recommend policy changes.

Appendix A

Adapted from “Things My Child Likes to Do” survey posted at  
<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/pdf/thingsdo.pdf>

**“Things My Child Likes to Do”**

**To: Parents of Students in the Loogootee Community School Corporation**

**From:**

**One of the major goals of our overall school program is to provide students with an opportunity to develop his or her individual strengths and creative thinking abilities. Although the work your child does in school gives us many opportunities to observe his or her strengths and interests, the activities that your child pursues at home can also help us to find ways for enriching his or her school program. For this reason, we are asking you to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to us at your earliest convenience.**

**The attached questionnaire contains 14 items. Each of the items deals with a general type of interest or activity that you may or may not have seen in your child. To help clarify the 14 items, we have also included an example. Please keep in mind that each example is included only to help clarify the meaning of the item. In other words, you should remember that you are rating your child on each of the 14 general items rather than the specific example.**

**If you should have any questions about this questionnaire, please contact the person whose name and telephone are listed below. We very much appreciate your assistance in helping us to provide the best possible educational program for your child.**

**Sincerely,**

**Phone Number:**

**INSERT**

**“THINGS MY CHILD LIKES TO DO”**

**SURVEY**

Appendix B

**Request for Conference**

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

Dear Parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_:

I would like to conduct a conference with you and \_\_\_\_\_ about his/her progress in the high ability program. At this point in the school year, I have concerns about your child not meeting the standards set forth in the high ability program. It is my goal for all of us to work together to try and improve your child's progress. Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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Conference

Date of conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we will be able to attend the conference at the above mentioned date and time.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, this date or time will not work for me/us. I will contact you as soon as possible to try and schedule a more convenient date/time.

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Parent signature

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Date

**Conference Reminder**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear** \_\_\_\_\_ **:**

**This is a reminder that we have a conference scheduled for the following date and time. Please contact me as soon as possible to reschedule if you are no longer able to attend for any reason. Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**

**Date of conference:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**People who will be in attendance:**

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## Appendix C

### Educational Intervention

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conference \_\_\_\_\_

Current High Ability Programming:

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List the reasons for pursuing the Educational Intervention:

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Classroom Interventions to be implemented by teacher:

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Intervention to be implemented by student:

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Interventions to be implemented by parent:

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Date of follow-up conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

The date of the follow-up conference must be AT LEAST one grading period after the initial conference.

Signed:

_____ Teacher	_____ Date
_____ Student	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date

**Appendix D**

**Dismissal Form from High Ability Programming**

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial conference \_\_\_\_\_

Date of follow-up conference \_\_\_\_\_

Current high ability programming:

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Changes made to student's placement or identification:

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Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

High Ability Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: The student will still be eligible for high ability services at a later date if need is determined by the procedures implemented by the school corporation.

