



## **Gifted and Talented Program at Highline Academy**

### **Gifted vs. Bright**

Gifts are natural abilities. Talents are gifts that develop over time with teaching, practice, and learning. Many students excel personally, academically, and/or civically, however, they may not be identified as gifted. Consider practicing ways to develop their intelligence (which is a talent)! “Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.” -Einstein

### **Resources for Parents and Teachers**

Check out the following resources to learn more about what characteristics to look for in a potentially gifted and/or talented child in your family.

- [Could My Child Be Gifted?](#)
- [Common Characteristics of Gifted Individuals](#)

### **Gifted Identification**

Per the *Exceptional Children’s Act* of 2015, the state requires a body of evidence with minimum of three state-approved qualifying data points (95%ile or higher) in order for a student to be identified as gifted. There are multiple pathways and areas for identification (Achievement, Talent, and General Intellectual). The two pathways most often used are achievement-focused (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language).

### **Pathway #1: With Cognitive Score**

(Student may be Highly Gifted & Talented [HGT] in this category)

Student Qualification:

- Cognitive Score
  - This comes from NNAT or CogAT. Any score of 95%ile in any one of the three subtests of the CogAT may be used. Highline uses the NNAT to screen all students in Kinder and 2nd grade in the fall. Select students

- may be nominated to receive the CogAT, as needed in the fall and spring.
  - IQ scores (e.g. WISC, DAS) may be used if the GT department approves.
  - This is the ONLY category that can make a student HGT (97%ile or higher)
- Observation Scale: This is commonly the SIGS
  - Use only scores of 95%ile or higher. The achievement area of 95%ile or higher will tell you which achievement scores to review next.
- Achievement Score: This comes from CMAS, ITBS, Aprenda, or MAPS
  - Use only scores of 95%ile or higher.
  - MAPS scores have to be qualifying over time. For instance, a data point could come if a student has a qualifying score in the fall AND the spring. Fall and winter would not count (too close together). It is always good to check these scores with your coordinator.
- Academic Portfolio (optional if other data points are non-qualifying in the domains above)
  - Still in the process of being developed
  - Can be used as an option if the student does not have a qualifying achievement and/or cognitive test
  - Must be above grade level work in the area of strength being pursued for identification

### Pathway #2: Without Cognitive Score

(Student will only be Gifted and Talented [GT] in this category)

Student Qualification:

- Observation Scale: This is commonly the SIGS
  - Use only scores of 95%ile or higher. The achievement area of 95%ile or higher will tell you which achievement scores to review next.
- Two Different Achievement Scores: this comes from CMAS, ITBS, Aprenda, or MAPS
  - Use only scores of 95%ile or higher
    - CMAS scores of 5 Exceeds Expectations may be used
  - MAPS scores have to be qualifying over time. For instance, a data point could come if a student has a qualifying score in the fall AND the spring. Fall and winter would not count (too close together). It is always good to check these scores with your coordinator.
  - You cannot count the same test twice for an ID
- Academic Portfolio
  - Still in the process of being developed

- Can be used as an option if the student does not have a qualifying achievement and/or cognitive test
- Must be above grade level work in the area of strength being pursued for identification

### Other ID Pathways

- General Intellectual: Can only be approved by GT department. This occurs when a student has a qualifying cognitive score but no other formal –state qualifying achievement data over time. This is used as a last resort ID option.
- Talent ID: Must go through the portfolio review. Contact the GT department for more info. Talent includes the following: creative or productive thinking, dance, drama, leadership, music, psychomotor, visual arts.