



Community Referral for Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics Services are designed for students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels compared to others of their age, experiences, or environments. Outstanding abilities are seen within the student's general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic skills, and/or creative productivity within a particular domain. Successful candidates are often independent learners who thrive when given progressively challenging opportunities and utilize advanced problem-solving skills. Gifted Learners engage in in-depth study and presentation of curriculum matched to their demonstrated skills and capabilities.

An Advanced Academic student **regularly** exhibits the following characteristics:

- a capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding, to retain what has been learned, and to transfer learning to new situations;
- a capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of abstraction and complexity earlier than their chronological peers;
- creative ability to make unusual connections among ideas and concepts.
- an ability to learn quickly in their area(s) of intellectual strength and;
- a capacity for intense concentration and/or focus.

The following indicators are used for student identification by the district multidisciplinary team to determine eligibility for Advanced Academic services:

- Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS) Teacher and Parent Rating Scale
- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- State testing data for students in grades 3-12.
- District benchmark assessments (DIBELS, aRead, aMath, earlyMath)
- Advanced Placement tests, if applicable
- WIDA English Language Proficiency data for students identified as multilingual learners.
- Cognitive Functioning Assessments for students identified as having an IEP, when applicable.

Students identified for the Advanced Academic program qualify for services designed to meet their needs as a learner. These services are tied to grade-level standards and provided within the school day. These services **might** include:

- Early Entrance to Kindergarten
- Academic Enrichment
- Targeted Instruction
- Acceleration
- Honors/Advanced Placement courses
- Running Start

Parents, teachers, or other community members may nominate students. If you are interested, please fill out the Parent Permission and Referral Form, the Teacher Referral Form, or the Community Member Referral Form and return ALL completed forms to one of the following staff members:

- o Elementary Schools - Teresa Schultz, teresa_schultz@ycs.wednet.edu
- o Secondary Schools - Office of Student Support, student_support@ycs.wednet.edu

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following staff members listed above.

Advanced Academic Timeline and Services

Below is the general timeline for screening, identification, and notification to families:

- Fall: October-December - Advanced Academic Referral Window is Open
- Winter: January-March - Screening and Assessment
- Spring: April-May - Eligibility Determined
- Late Spring: May-June - Parents are Notified of Results

Students who qualify for the Advanced Academics program will have services that follow them through high school graduation.

For a student who qualifies, services may include:

- **Differentiation:** Grade K-5 students are served in the regular classroom through differentiation by the classroom teacher.
- **Advanced-Grade Placement:** Some students in grades K-8 who qualify for highly capable services may receive accelerated subject placement in the general education program. Students may also qualify for early entrance to Kindergarten or whole-grade acceleration.
- **Advanced Subject Placement:** Qualified math students might enroll in Pre-Algebra in 7th grade and progress through AP Calculus or AP Statistics in high school.
- **Independent Study:** Students contract to complete specific work or projects, usually under the direction of a mentor teacher.
- **Honors Classes:** Classes that offer greater depth, complexity, and a faster pace.
- **Advanced Placement:** A formal curriculum developed by the College Board for high school students to complete a course and take the exam for college credit.

If your student does not qualify:

- Parents or guardians **may** file a written letter of appeal to the Office of Student Support **within two weeks** of receipt of this notification. The student continues with their current placement through this process.



Community Referral for Advanced Academic

Student's Last Name		Middle	First	
Current School	School Year	Current Grade Level	Gender Expression	Date of Birth
Parent/Guardian Name		Language Other than English?	Connection to the Student/Family	
I am referring this student for: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics		This student: <input type="checkbox"/> Has qualified for advanced services in another school district <input type="checkbox"/> Has a 504 plan <input type="checkbox"/> Has an IEP		

1. What areas does the student demonstrate academic achievement significantly above their peers? (ie. math, reading)

2. Briefly describe specific examples of exceptional behavior, learning characteristics, creative products, and/or problem-solving abilities the student **regularly exhibits**.

3. Include any other information to help the Advanced Academics Multidisciplinary Committee fully understand the student and their needs. Please include language or cultural differences or evidence of academic underachievement, which might cause lower test scores.

Please return this form to one of the following staff members:

- Elementary Schools: Teresa Schultz, teresa_schultz@ycs.wednet.edu
- Secondary Schools: Office of Student Support, student_support@ycs.wednet.edu

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Referral Form Received: -----
Received By: -----
Date Confirmed with Parent/Guardian and Parental Permission to Test/Receive Services: -----