

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

The second meeting of the year for the Broad Based Planning Committee was held virtually due to extreme weather conditions. Members in Attendance: Andrea Brown, Jennifer Miller, Malari Williams, Melissa Beeker, Mary Burkhart, Laura Samide, Amanda Ramirez, Lori Taylor, Dr. Matt Hines, Dr. Sarah Pies and Barb Marcotte. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Sarah Pies. Sarah welcomed everyone for taking the time for our virtual meeting this evening.

The first item on tonight's agenda is High Ability Council Updates. Dr. Pies shared that we have two high ability councils for elementary teachers that meet monthly during the school year. The High Ability Math Council consists of seven members while the English/Language Arts Council consists of eleven members. These high ability council groups work together while their general education counterparts are meeting in the next conference room. This allows the High Ability Math/English Language Arts members to work on deliverables. Also, the high ability council members received additional CogAT training to assist them in understanding how CogAT can assist staff glean more knowledge about their students through each test score. Both high ability council groups end each meeting with their respective elementary councils. Sarah then showed the group how the teachers can access and review standards in the Elementary School PLC Hub. This tool is still under construction, but with all teachers having access to this, it will be a very helpful guide. First through fifth grade is currently in progress with kindergarten to be created next year.

One specific area of the CogAT training is designed to help identify our multilingual students. The CogAT complete test gives an Alternative Verbal Ability score, which is designed to ensure fair gifted identification and ability measurement for students. This is quite helpful in identifying multilingual high ability students whose Verbal score may have been too low to qualify, but the Alternative Verbal Ability score will allow us to identify more students. Currently, this is only an option for kindergarten and first grade students.

Moving onto High Ability Identification. A reminder that we have moved away from NWEA testing for our third through fifth grade students and are utilizing ILEARN Checkpoints for achievement measurement. Students take ILEARN checkpoints three times during a school year. For identifying our high ability students for next year, we will have three checkpoints from the 2024-25 school year and two checkpoints from this current year to help administrators select new high ability students for the upcoming school year.

We will still use CogAT for the ability measurement of our kindergarten, second grade, and new-to-Avon students through middle school who do not have CogAT scores. As we transition from the previous K-4 elementary schools to K-5 elementary schools this year, it was determined that we did not need to retest our current fifth grade students as they took the CogAT as fourth graders in the 2024-25 school year. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, we will also administer CogAT to all fifth graders to assist their course placements for middle school.

A reminder to all that the high ability appeal window is currently open for all students currently enrolled in grades three through five. The window is open from January 16th to February 6th. All appeals will be reviewed and if scores are within the standard error, the parents/teachers will be sent a qualitative measure: SIGS – Scales for Identifying Gifted Students to further assist in the appeal process. The SIGS will look at leadership and creativity scores to assist Math and/or English/Language Arts scores for the whole picture. If a student has qualifying scores, parents/teachers do not need to submit a recommendation, the student will be invited based upon their scores.

With the new middle school structure of grades six through eight, our schools have adopted more pathways for our incoming sixth grade students to qualify for high ability. Language Arts has two paths, Language Arts and Language Arts Honors. For math, we have to auto enroll a middle school student in a higher level math course if they have a C average and are Above Proficiency on the ILEARN Math summative. Our math teachers will soon be working on the curriculum for the new course for the 2026-27 school year. The three courses will be Math 6, which is grade level content. Math 6 Honors will be one year above grade level for most high ability students. Lastly, Pre-Algebra 6 will be offered for high ability students excelling in math and is two years above grade level. These course options will assist our students select the correct path as they navigate through middle and high school.

Our next meeting will be held on April 14th. Sarah appreciated everyone who took the time to sign into tonight's virtual meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.