Aspire Criteria and Programming

2026-2027

Our goal is to support students with special learning needs with advanced, cognitively challenging instructional programming which promotes innovative thinking and learning.

TES Aspire Student Identification Process for 2026-2027		
Population	**Assessment Point**	**Criteria**
Kindergarten	Winter AIMSweb	Students at 95% percentile and above on screener in Early Literacy
	Marking Period 2 report card	90% Exceeds Standards in the areas of Reading, Writing and Math
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 1	Winter AIMSweb	Students at 95% percentile and above on screener in Early Literacy
	Marking Period 2 report card	90% Exceeds Standards in the areas of Reading, Writing and Math
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
	CogAt screener	95% percentile or higher and a stanine of 9
**** ***Kindergarten and 1st grade*** *will have a marking period of Aspire. This instruction will be delivered in a whole class setting 1x a week. The class activities will be project based and incorporate a theme from the grade level curriculum.*		
Grade 2	1st grade Spring CogAT	95% or higher and Stanine score of 9
	Spring AIMSweb results	Students at 95% percentile and above on screener in both Reading and Math
	Marking Period 2 report card	50% Exceeds Standards in the areas of Reading, Writing. Math and Listening & Speaking
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 3	2nd grade Spring AIMSweb	Students at 95% percentile and above on screener in both

		Reading and Math
	Marking Period 3 report card	50% Exceeds Standards in the areas of Reading, Writing. Math and Listening & Speaking
	CogAt screener	95% percentile or higher and a stanine of 9
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 4	3rd grade Spring AIMSweb	Students at 95% percentile and above on screener in both Reading and Math
	Marking Period 3 report card	50% Exceeds Standards in the areas of Reading, Writing. Math and Listening & Speaking
	Spring 3rd grade NJSLA	NJSLA Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
	CogAt screener	95% percentile or higher and a stanine of 9

OTS Aspire Student Identification Process for 2026-2027

Population	Assessment Point	Criteria
Grade 5 ELA and/or Math	4th grade Spring CogAT	95% percentile or higher and a stanine of 9
	Spring 4th grade NJSLA (ELA and/or Math)	NJSLA Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Report Card	Previous year final grade of an A/A+ in ELA and/or Math
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 6 ELA and/or Math	Spring 5th grade NJSLA (ELA and/or Math)	NJSLA Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Report Card	Previous year final grade of an A/A+ in ELA and/or Math
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 7 ELA Honors	Spring 6th grade NJSLA	NJSLA ELA Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Report Card	Previous year final grade of an A/A+ in ELA
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 7 Honors Math	Final average of MP3 (4-5 points for average)	5= 94 or above 4= 89-93
	Spring 6th grade NJSLA	NJSLA Math Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Markers for future Success	Completes Homework

	(4-5 points needed for each)	Works Independently Seeks Help When Needed
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Grade 8 ELA Honors	Spring 7th grade NJSLA	NJSLA ELA Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Report Card	Previous year final grade of an A/A+ in ELA
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form
Algebra I (Grade 8 Math Honors)	Final average of MP3 (4-5 points for average)	5=94 or above 4=89-93
	Spring 7th grade NJSLA	NJSLA Math Score of 5 (Achieved a score within the top 15% of the testing group)
	Markers for future Success (4-5 points needed for each)	Completes Homework Works Independently Seeks Help When Needed
	Recommendation	Teacher or Parent recommendation form

Notes:

Parents may complete a parent waiver form for placement in Grade 7 and Grade 8 Honors Math. The grades of students will be reviewed at the end of the first marking period to determine if the academic process aligns with continued enrollment in the course.

Students may also fill out the recommendation form to meet one of the criteria for enrollment into Aspire.