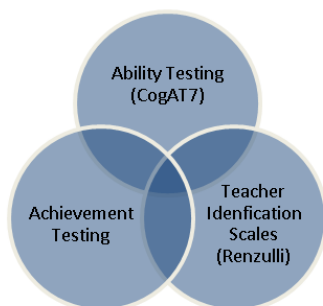


Highly Capable Programs

Selection Process (2025-26 Placement)



The Bethel School District Highly Capable programs seek to identify the most highly capable students in our district. Highly Capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, or environments. A multi-disciplinary placement team makes placements for the entire district using multiple measures such as ability testing, achievement testing, and teacher identification scales.

PLACEMENT NOTES

Students who qualify for highly capable programs will remain in highly capable programs and progress through this continuum without retesting unless they go through a formal exit process. Students who qualify based on this year's referral and spring/fall testing will automatically be placed into programs for the next school year.

ABILITY TESTING:

Ability testing for all referred students will take place at the student's school during the school day. The school will schedule testing as well as notify parents of the testing times. Parents must give permission for testing. The test used for ability testing is the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 8). While there is not a hard cut-score for program placement, listed below is a table that shows CogAT scores **typical** for students who qualify.

ABILITY TESTING: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 8). TYPICAL CogAT scores for students who qualify.	
→ High Verbal: Student earns 129 (97th percentile) or higher in the Verbal section (with at least a 113 in Quantitative section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with a high Verbal score (129 or higher) and a Quantitative score lower than 113 may be considered for a differentiation plan in ELA for elementary and inclusion in the Honors Humanities middle school class.
→ High Quantitative: Student earns a 132 (98th percentile) or higher in Quantitative section (with at least a 113 in the Verbal section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with a high Quantitative Score (132 or higher) and a Verbal score lower than 113 may be considered for a differentiation plan in math for elementary and inclusion in the Advanced math middle school courses.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING:

In addition to testing referrals by parents, staff, or other sources, we use Universal Screening to identify more students to refer for complete ability testing and consideration for highly capable programs. Students who score at the highest levels (top percentiles in district norms) of the following screeners are added to the highly capable testing and placement process:

- Kindergarten: *Star Early Literacy* and *WaKIDS*
- 1st - 5th grade: *Star Reading* and *Star Math*
- 4th and 5th grade: *Smarter Balanced ELA* and *Smarter Balanced Math*

Teacher Rating Scales

Teachers complete the CLED (Culturally, Linguistically & Economically Diverse) rating scales as well as Renzulli Rating Scales for Creativity and Learning. These scales are standardized tools for identifying highly capable students. High ratings on these scales are considered as an additional factor for highly capable placement.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTING:

State and district achievement testing in reading and math occurs throughout the year at the school. Advanced level achievement test scores are considered as an additional factor in highly capable program placement. Examples of these tests include:

	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
WaKIDS	✓								
Star CBM (Early Literacy)	✓	✓	✓						
Eureka Math Assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
ReadyGen ELA Assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Star Reading			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Star Math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
State Tests: ELA & Math					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
State Tests: Science							✓		

PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION:

Students and parents should be notified of highly capable placement into *highly capable programs* and results from the CogAT test by the end of May. This notification will be sent home through the mail. Upon notification, parents will have to give permission for the student to receive highly capable services. Placement into *Endeavour* will occur before the end of the school year. Please visit our website (<https://www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/highly-capable-program>) for any updates on notification timeline.

RETESTING & APPEALS:

Retesting: Students may re-test the CogAT given the following conditions: ¹ It has been over 6 months since the student last tested and ² The student is enrolled in at least one grade level higher than when they last tested.

Appeals: Appeals are considered annually for students who did not meet the criteria. The multi-disciplinary team will examine provided evidence of high ability and need for program placement. Parents will be notified of the appeal process and timeline in the placement notification letter by late May. Appeal decisions will be either to maintain placement decisions, change placement decisions, or allow students to retest in the fall. Appeal Forms are available online at

<https://www.bethelsd.org/programs-departments/highly-capable-program>.

Out-side testing: Private testing as well as testing from other districts are accepted for appeal review, but not required.

TRANSFER STUDENTS:

Students who transfer from out-of-district and have qualified in that district's highly capable program are not automatically enrolled. Test scores and placement letters from the other district may be used as long as they meet our placement criteria. Late summer / early fall testing opportunities will be available for students new to the district since the prior year's district testing. Additional testing opportunities will be provided on an as needed basis. Contact the Highly Capable and Assessment office (253) 800-2090 for more information.