

Ignite! Gifted Education Criteria



Criteria for Ignite!

The Ignite! program is intended for highly gifted learners in the top 4% of the local student population. Typically students who score at the 99th percentile in ability and achievement are invited to Ignite! The district selection committee uses the following criteria as a guideline for placement.

Ability Criteria

Any one score at or above the 99th percentile on the following:

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Verbal – 135 (Standard Age Score SAS)
- CogAT Quantitative – 135 (SAS)
- CogAT Nonverbal – 135 (SAS)
- CogAT Composite (V/Q/NV) – 135 (SAS)

Achievement Criteria

(Use best performance within two years for each subject; early Reading and early Math excluded)

- 99th percentile or higher FastBridge aReading or equivalent in reading
- 99th percentile or higher FastBridge aMath or equivalent in math

Placement: A student meeting at least one criterion in ability and BOTH reading and math achievement is recommended for the full-time gifted program, Ignite!

Location: Ignite! is a full-time district gifted program at Oak Hills Elementary. Transportation to Ignite! is the responsibility of the family. Qualifying students who do not wish to attend Ignite! will be invited to participate in either the Discover Humanities and/or Discover Math program per best fit at their home school.

Placement Notification: Second-grade families of students selected for Ignite! will receive a letter of eligibility by March 1 for placement the following year.

If additional space is available, the selection committee will review students who score at the 97th-98th percentile or higher in ability. Gender balance will be considered when appropriate to promote a balanced learning environment and equitable access to programming.

Key to Abbreviations and Acronyms:

- CogAT = Cognitive Abilities Test (ability test; verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal/group administered)
- FastBridge aReading = Adaptive Reading Test (group achievement test)
- FastBridge aMath = Adaptive Math Test (group achievement test)
- SAS = Standard Age Score

Selection Process: The selection process for Ignite! services is done by a District Selection Committee and consists of at least two specialists and the Elementary Teaching & Learning Coordinator.

- The Coordinator compiles the necessary data on students in the talent pool for the District Selection Committee to review.
- The District Selection Committee reviews all students in the talent pool and determines which students meet the identification criteria for Ignite!. The committee may also determine whether additional testing is needed.

Additional Assessment Information:

- Testing data from other districts may be used to meet the criteria. The District Selection Committee will determine the qualifying scores based on testing.
- Individual ability/achievement testing may also be submitted to meet the criteria. The District Selection Committee will determine the equivalent qualifying score based on testing.

- Outside private testing by a licensed psychologist is permitted at the expense of the family.
- The Minnesota Council for Gifted and Talented (MCGT) can provide a list of psychologists who specialize in working with families of gifted learners.

Ignite! Transfers: Limited spots are available for students wishing to enter Ignite! after the initial third-grade entry point. Interested families should complete an application and submit it by the application deadline. Mid-year transfers to Ignite! are accepted case-by-case for highly qualified students, as space allows. Interested families should contact the Elementary Teaching & Learning Coordinator.

Appeal Process: In the absence of qualifying ability scores, parents or guardians may appeal identification decisions by submitting a *Home Observation Inventory* (HOI) to the District Selection Committee. The *Home Observation Inventory* is available on the ISD 194 Gifted/Advanced Learning webpage. Families are welcome to provide additional testing, work samples or other information to help the committee determine appropriate placement. If needed, a final appeal can be submitted to the Director of Teaching and Learning for review.

Appeal Due Dates:

- Appeals for the Ignite! program are due by the Ignite! appeal due date and should include an application for Ignite!

Staff members may also request further consideration for a student by submitting a *Teacher Observation Inventory* (TOI). The District Selection Committee will review each request and determine appropriate action. Appeal decisions made by the District Selection Committee are final.

Please visit the ISD 194 Gifted/Advanced Learning website for more information.