

**Screening and Selection of Students
for the High Ability Learner (HAL) Program
in Millard Public Schools
(Revised August 2026)**

K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Program: Kindergarten/Grade 1/Grade 2

Screening

1. Screening students for inclusion in the K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Program will begin informally in Kindergarten and will continue through 2nd grade.
2. During this time, the Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI) will be used at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 level to identify math, reading, and Visual-Spatial candidates. In Grade 2 the MAP Assessment may identify math and reading candidates, but Grade 2 teachers may also use the KOI to identify students, especially Visual-Spatial candidates.
 - a. Students will be screened with the KOI instrument and activities.
 - b. Students who exhibit superior (3) or very superior (4) behaviors in comparison with their age peers will participate in the K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Program.
3. Students in 2nd grade can also be identified for the K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Math and/or Reading with MAP Assessment scores:
 - a. Current year MAP Math or Reading score of 95th%ile or higher
 - b. Two current year MAP Math or Reading scores in the 90-94th%ile
4. Students will be reassigned annually.
5. Parents will be informed of a student's participation in the K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Program and teachers will be expected to provide differentiated learning experiences.

KOI Deadlines:

Kindergarten: By December 1

1st Grade and 2nd Grade: By parent-teacher conferences in October

1st Grade: Second round of observations before parent-teacher conferences in February

2nd Grade Spring CogAT Testing

1. **Students in the K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope Program will be given all subtests of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in the spring.**
 - a. Students who score a Standard Age Score of 127* will be included in the Millard Public Schools' HAL Compass Program for grades 3-8.
 - b. Students who score a Standard Age Score of 122-126 will be given SIGS. To qualify or conditionally qualify for the Millard Public Schools 3-8 HAL Compass Program, students must receive the following scores:

- SIGS School Rating Scales score of 110+ on any subtest -OR-
 - SIGS Home Rating Scales score of 110+ on any subtest
2. The K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope program has a defined curriculum for Language Arts, Math, and Visual/Spatial.
 3. Parents will be informed of a student's participation in the 3-8 HAL Compass Program and teachers will be expected to provide differentiated learning experiences for these identified students.

3-8 HAL Compass Program: 3rd-8th Grade

Criteria for Initial Screening

In order to be considered for CogAT testing, students need:

MAP Testing

- Current year MAP Math or Reading average scores in the 85%ile or higher

Other Considerations

- K-2 HAL Kaleidoscope participation in Millard (Grades K, 1, and/or 2)
- A score of 10+ on the Visual-Spatial Learner Student Check Sheet

Screening

1. Students meeting the above criteria will be given the CogAT in the spring.
 - a. It is at the discretion of school personnel to determine which CogAT subtests will be administered.
 - b. Students who score a Standard Age Score of 127* will be included in Millard Public Schools' HAL Compass Program for grades 3-8.
 - c. Students who score a Standard Age Score of 122-126 will be given SIGS. To qualify or conditionally qualify for the Millard Public Schools 3-8 HAL Compass Program, students must receive the following scores:
 - SIGS School Rating Scales score of 110+ on any subtest -OR-
 - SIGS Home Rating Scales score of 110+ on any subtest
2. The HAL Compass program has a defined curriculum for Language Arts, Math, and Visual-Spatial in grades 3-8.
3. Parents will be informed of a student's participation in the 3-8 HAL Compass Program, and teachers will be expected to provide differentiated learning experiences for these identified students.

Limited English Proficient/English Learners

1. Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners (LEP/EL) must fulfill the following three criteria before CogAT testing will be administered:



- a. ELPA test showing growth of more than one standard deviation during testing.
 - b. Parent/guardian recommendation using the SIGS Home Rating Scales (score of 110+) -OR- Characteristics of Gifted EL Learner Checklist (score of 10+) administered by a district interpreter liaison.
 - c. EL or classroom teacher recommendation using the SIGS School Rating Scales (score of 110+).
2. Once the above criteria has been met, an LEP/EL student will be administered the CogAT test.
 - a. Students who receive a Verbal Standard Age Score of 100 will qualify for 3-8 HAL Compass Reading.
 - b. Students who receive a Quantitative and/or Nonverbal Standard Age Score of 122 or higher will qualify for 3-8 HAL Compass Mathematics and/or Visual-Spatial depending on the qualifying subtest(s).

*The above criteria may be used for students up to one year following REF placement.

Testing Occasions

1. Students should be tested for the HAL Program only twice in the elementary grades.
2. Students should be tested for the HAL Program only one time in middle school.
3. On rare occasions, an additional administration may be permitted based upon team decision at the building.

Qualifying with SIGS/CogAT Results

A student scoring in the 122-126 range on the CogAT, paired with a qualifying SIGS score, qualifies for the HAL Program based on the chart below:

CogAT Score Range	SIGS Score (teacher or parent)
Verbal (Reading) 122-126	110+ on Language Arts or General Ability or Creativity
Quantitative (Math) 122-126	110+ on Math or General Ability
Nonverbal (Visual-Spatial) 122-126	110+ on Math or General Ability or Creativity

New to Millard Students Previously Identified as a Gifted Learner by Another School District

- To participate in Millard's HAL program, the student must meet the MPS Identification Procedures requirements as outlined within this document.
 - If a new student **meets** Millard's HAL Program criteria:
 - [NDE Rule 3, 004.05C](#) requires districts communicate services to be provided to the student with parents and guardians within 60 calendar days of enrollment.
 - If a new student **does not meet** Millard's HAL Program criteria:
 - [Nebraska Rule 3 004.04](#) requires the district to provide written notice if a student is identified as a learner with high ability but will not receive services.
 - [Nebraska Rule 3, 004.07A](#) requires the district to provide written notice to the parent or guardian within thirty (30) school days of the student's enrollment. This notice must clearly state that the school district does not offer services in the identified area of high ability or does not provide high ability services.
 - [Nebraska Rule 3, 004.006](#) requires the status of a student identified as a learner with high ability may only be terminated following an exit procedure as further outlined: [Gifted New to Millard Student Exit Procedures](#)

Review & Appeals Process

1. As required by [Nebraska Rule 3, 004.01\(E\)](#), if a stakeholder in the identification process believes that a student's CogAT results were not an accurate depiction of the student's abilities, that stakeholder may request a review: [MPS HAL Identification Appeals Process](#)
2. After further district review the building level team may opt on rare occasions for the student retake the CogAT, or an individually administered IQ test.
 - a. IQ tests can be administered by district personnel or by a qualified test administrator outside of the district.
3. The following IQ tests will be accepted for the HAL Program:
 - a. Verbal, nonverbal or composite scores of 127 or higher will identify the student for the program.
 - i. Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-V
 - ii. Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-IV
 - iii. Stanford Binet Intelligence Scale-V
 - iv. Differential Ability Scales-2
 - v. Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children-3
 - vi. Cognitive Assessment System
 - vii. Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales-2
 - viii. Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test-II