

La Center Bobcats HiCap (Gifted and Talented) Program

Mission Statement:

La Center Elementary recognizes the importance of meeting each child's unique learning needs. Each student identified and placed in the highly capable program shall be provided educational opportunities which take into account their individual strengths and capabilities.

Our Highly Capable (HiCap) leadership team has continued their work to improve upon our HiCap program to identify and support our HiCap students in their learning. Here at LCES we have inquiry based lessons in a variety of subjects and access to math, science and leadership clubs that many of our Highly Capable students gravitate to. Our teachers go through a data driven process each spring to identify new Highly Capable students who would benefit from being placed in a HiCap cluster classroom as part of our schoolwide Highly Capable program. Our team meets regularly to collaborate and calibrate efforts and strategies to provide meaningful learning opportunities for this group of students with a few extra learning opportunities outside the classroom for additional challenge and support. As a result, our Highly Capable students participate in STEM, PBL, and other real world based lesson plans whenever applicable to the classroom learning target or unit.

For HiCap student 2026-2027 school year identification and placement purposes, if you feel your student in grades K-5 shares characteristics of a HiCap student, you may print and fill out the referral form available [HERE](#) and at the elementary office and turn it into our office by **March 13**. Again, we will be looking at all of our students to determine which ones might benefit from placement in the HiCap program. If your student qualifies for the program we will share basic results with you and give the option of participating in the program.

Highly Capable (HiCap) Definition:

Highly capable (HiCap) 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. Outstanding abilities are seen within students' general intellectual aptitudes, specific academic abilities, unique leadership capacity, and/or creative productivities.

Highly Capable (HiCap) Descriptors:

- Learns rapidly and easily
- Offers original, imaginative responses
- Is self-directed and has a long attention span
- Is inquisitive, skeptical
- Uses an extensive vocabulary
- Constantly asks questions; is curious about many things
- Seeks out challenging work or changes simple tasks into more complex tasks
- Associates with intellectual peers, regardless of age
- Has an advanced sense of humor; understands adult humor

- Understands concepts easily and quickly
- Does not accept things at “face value”
- Produces original ideas and projects
- Uses logic to solve problems
- Is intrigued by abstract ideas

La Center Elementary Highly Capable Screening and Identification Process:

The goal of the screening and identification process is to have at least one qualitative measure and one quantitative measure that show a need for access to services for students with high capability.

Step 1: Universal Screening

All students will be part of the universal screening process. A student who meets the criteria for any one of the screeners will move on to Step 2. Any student not placed in Step 2 through screening may be put in Step 2 by Parent or Teacher Nomination.

WaKids (kindergarten only) Top 3 percentile ranking

STAR Test (grades K-5): Reading /Early Literacy or Math score in the 97th to 99th percentile of local norms on the 2 most recent assessments.

CogAT: All 2nd grade students will participate in a short CogAT digital screening assessment during class time on March 6th as a quantitative measure.

[CogAT details here](#)

Parent or Teacher Nomination: Every parent or teacher nomination will be looked at and considered by our Hi Cap team.

[Parent Nomination Form Here](#)

[Teacher Nomination Form Here](#)

Step 2: Data/Results Review

The Highly Capable team will review the screeners and/or nomination requests to determine if the student qualifies, does not qualify, or needs additional information to determine placement.

Feb 20, 2026

Step 3: Appeal Process

It is our mission to give all students an opportunity to participate. Some students may need to be evaluated using a different style. If you feel your student or child did not qualify but would benefit from the program please fill out, print, and return [This appeal](#) form to our elementary office by April 10th. Our Hi Cap team will be in contact with you in a timely manner.

Step 4: Placement in Program

In Step 4, all students who have a qualifying measure as determined by the district's selection system will be placed in the program upon parental approval.

Best Regards,

Greg Hall
3-5 Principal
La Center Elementary