

Discover Humanities National Norm Criteria

Learners who may benefit from advanced learning opportunities are identified using standardized ability and achievement test scores. The district selection committee uses the criteria below as a guideline for placement decisions.

Ability Criteria

Any one score at or above the 97th percentile on the following:

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Verbal – 129 (Standard Age Score SAS)
- CogAT Nonverbal – 129 (SAS)
- CogAT Composite (V/NV) – 129 (SAS)

Achievement Criteria

(Use best performance within one calendar year.)

- 95th percentile or higher FastBridge aReading or equivalent in reading

Students who meet both the ability and achievement criteria may be placed in Discover Humanities at any time during the school year. Families will be notified by the Advanced Learning Program Specialist (ALPS) before services begin. Families of students who do not wish to participate in Discover Humanities may opt out. Participation in Discover Humanities is flexible and is based on student learning goals and the needs of the grade level. Student groupings are reviewed throughout the school year.

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.

Discover Humanities Local Norm Process

Based on the student population within each building, additional students may be identified for advanced learning services through the application of local norms. The number of students identified through this process will vary annually and across grade levels.

This determination is made by the District Selection Committee, which is composed of at least two Advanced Learning Program Specialists in collaboration with the Elementary Teaching & Learning Coordinator and/or the District MTSS Coordinator.

Discover Humanities Appeals Process

Parents or guardians may appeal identification decisions by submitting a Home Observation Inventory (HOI) to the District Selection Committee. The Home Observation Inventory (HOI) is available on the ISD 194 Advanced Learning website. If needed, a final appeal can be submitted to the Director of Teaching and Learning to be reviewed by the building principal and Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning.

Appeals for Discover can be submitted at any time. If submitted over the summer, the appeal will be reviewed in the early fall. Requests received during the school year will be processed within 30 days of the request unless additional testing is needed. Students entering Discover mid-year will be placed in the program at the start of the next unit.

Staff members may also request further consideration for a student by submitting a Teacher Observation Inventory (TOI) with relevant work samples. The District Selection Committee will review each request and determine appropriate action.

Please visit the [ISD 194 Elementary Advanced Learning website](#) for more information.