

# HIGHLY CAPABLE HANDBOOK

**WELCOME TO THE ASD5 HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM**



**Aberdeen School District**  
**Our Children, Our Schools, Our Future**

# ASD5 HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM



## What is Highly Capable?

Hi-Cap is an abbreviation for Highly Capable and refers to services for Highly Capable students. A Highly Capable student performs, or shows potential for performing, at significantly advanced levels when compared with other students of their age, experience, or environment.

Highly capable students may have outstanding capabilities in their general ability to learn, in specific subjects, in their creativity, and/or in leadership skills. Highly Capable students come from all segments of the population.

The goal of Aberdeen School District's Highly Capable Services is to engage and challenge Highly Capable students through relevant instruction and learning opportunities available in their classrooms, schools, community, and home.

### Our Vision

*Meeting the unique academic, social and emotional needs of intellectually gifted students through enhanced and accelerated learning opportunities.*

# IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The Aberdeen School District uses multiple measures to identify students who perform, or show potential for performing, at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences, and/or environments. Student data for this school year includes district-required in-class assessments in literacy, math, and cognition. Following assessments and the referral process, the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) thoughtfully reviews student data. The MDC is made up of classroom teachers, a building principal, a school psychologist, the Highly Capable Program Team, district administrators, and the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Our goal is to identify academically highly capable students who would most benefit from a continuum of Highly Capable services. There is no single cut score or threshold a student must meet. We look at trends over time, focusing on student growth while considering the demographics of underrepresented student populations in an effort to ensure equity and remove barriers for low income students, as required by state law. Following the team's decisions, families receive communication regarding a student's qualification for services, with the option to appeal the committee's decision, if desired.

## ASSESSMENT MEASURES

| Grade        | Literacy                  | Math                    | Cognition |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Kinder - 5th | iReady Reading            | iReady Math             | NNAT3     |
| 6th -12th    | iReady Reading<br>SBA ELA | iReady Math<br>SBA Math | NNAT3     |

# TIMELINE



## REFERRALS

Teachers, parents, and community members may refer any student for consideration to receive Highly Capable services. Referrals are accepted at any time and are actively solicited in the fall of each year.

All students referred as potentially Highly Capable will be considered for services and will be assessed with the NNAT3 as part of the qualification process.

**Aug. 30th -  
Sept. 29th**

**Referrals for Highly  
Capable Accepted**

**October  
2023**

**NNAT3 Universal Screening  
begins for 2nd and 6th  
Graders**

**November  
2023**

**NNAT3 Screening for  
students referred for  
Highly Capable Services**

**January /  
February  
2024**

**Multi-Disciplinary  
Committee Meeting for  
Qualification**

**March  
2024**

**Qualification decision  
mailed to Families**

**Fall 2024**

**New students placed in  
Highly Capable  
Programming**



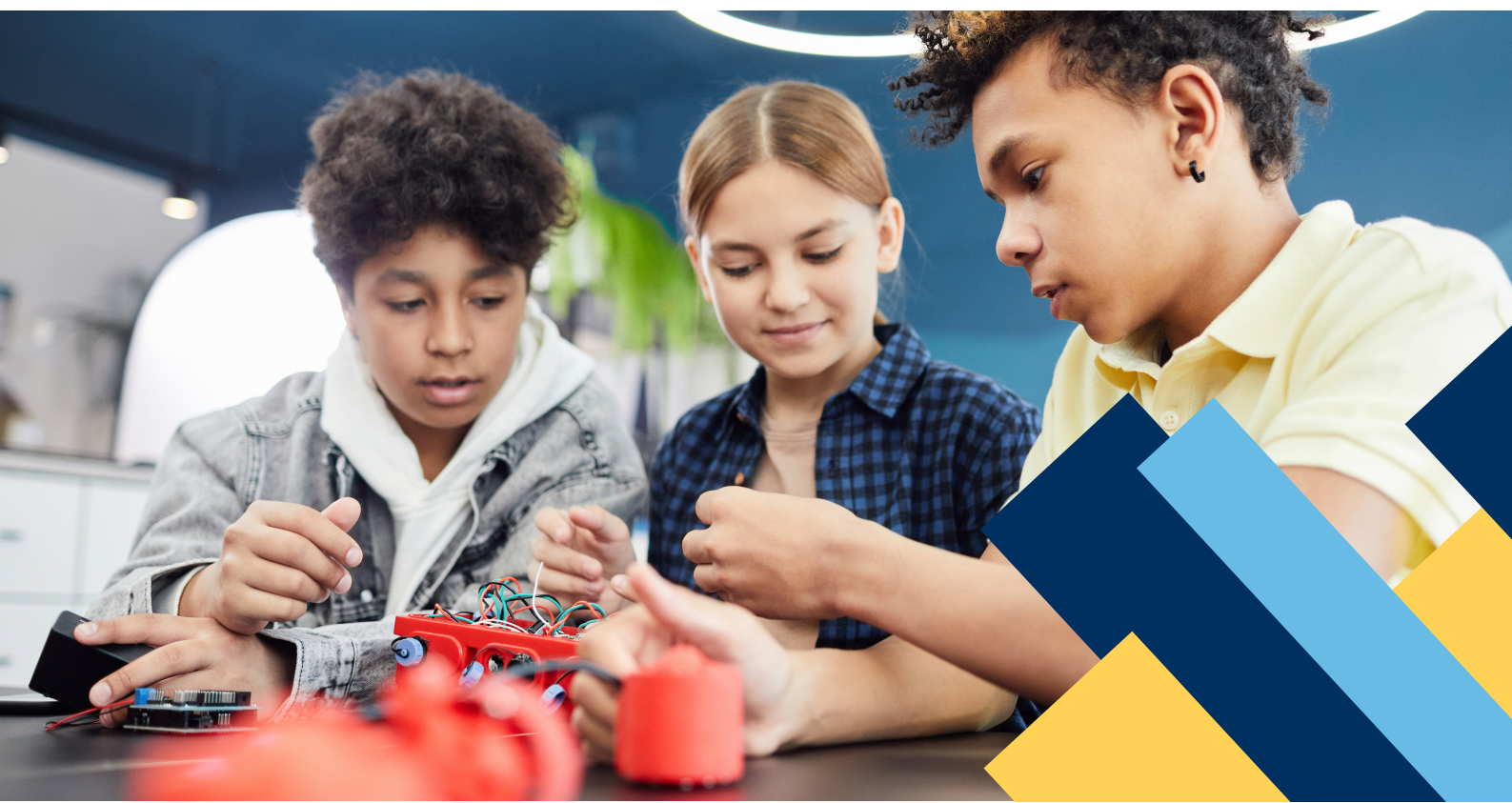
# WANT TO REFER A STUDENT FOR HIGHLY CAPABLE SERVICES?

*If you feel a student could benefit from enrichment or accelerated learning experiences, please complete the referral form by scanning the QR code below or visit the Aberdeen School District website.*



# PROGRAM MODEL

Aberdeen School District offers a continuum of services to engage and challenge Highly Capable students. Highly Capable students have access to in-class cluster grouping, differentiated instruction, and online course compacting and acceleration. Elementary and Middle School students may participate in workshops, field trips, and family learning opportunities. In high school Highly Capable students continue to participate in advanced classes as well as concurrent enrollment or Running Start. The district also offers various clubs and knowledge based competitions for secondary students to participate in.



# ELEMENTARY

## Grades K-5

Differentiation in the classroom and cluster grouping are provided to Highly Capable elementary students. Students are enrolled in a general education classroom in their home school and placed in like-peer groupings of 2-6 Highly Capable students based on strengths and needs. Their teacher will work with the Highly Capable coordinator to provide enrichment and differentiate daily instructional content to best meet student's needs.

If funding allows, additional enrichment activities and field trips may be offered.

\*optional participation in elementary Hi-cap field trips and activities as age appropriate for students in Kindergarten through Second Grade.



# SECONDARY

## Grades 6-12

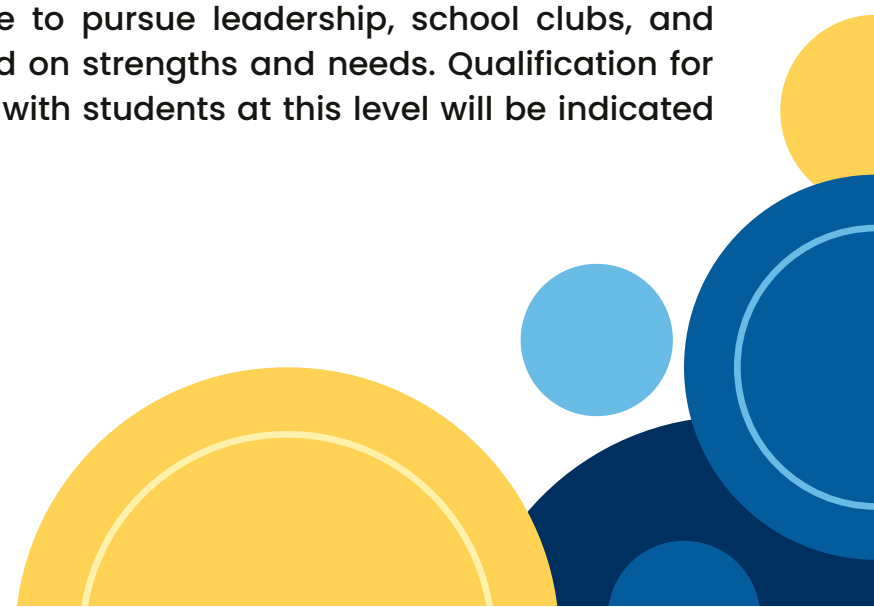
### Grades 6-8

Miller Junior High offers course acceleration in the subject of Mathematics. Highly Capable students are able to participate in an accelerated math pathway that leads to completing Algebra 1 (a high school credit bearing course) in 8th Grade. Students and families must elect this pathway when scheduling courses or during Bobkitten Days in August.

Additionally, Highly Capable students are placed in like-peer groupings of 2-10 Highly Capable students clustered in middle school advisory classes. Their teacher will work with the Highly Capable coordinator and school counselor to provide enrichment and course advisement to best meet student's needs. Various other opportunities, such as electives of interest, leadership, and other academic clubs are available for participation, if elected.

### Grades 9-12

All Highly Capable students can register for Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), CTE and Running Start courses offered at the High School level. Additionally, students can choose to pursue leadership, school clubs, and electives of interest courses based on strengths and needs. Qualification for Highly Capable Program services with students at this level will be indicated in their records.



# CONTACT

360-538-2120



[www.asd5.org/Page/7936](http://www.asd5.org/Page/7936)



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A young girl with brown hair in a ponytail, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, is sitting at a desk in a classroom and raising her right hand. Other students are visible in the background, also at desks. The image is framed by a dark blue border and decorated with large, overlapping geometric shapes in light blue and yellow. The text 'LET'S GROW' is prominently displayed in the upper left quadrant.

# LET'S GROW

OUR CHILDREN, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR FUTURE