

## **Able Learner Program (Ables)**

The Able Learner Program is part of a continuum of services for highly capable elementary students. Commonly called “Ables”, it is a district pull-out program for identified students in grades two through five. This program is designed to provide intellectually challenging experiences for these children. Students attend one day per week.

## **Procedures for Identification and Placement of Highly Capable Students:**

WAC 392 170 047 – Parental permission:

Parental permission must be obtained in writing before:

1. Conducting assessment(s) to determine eligibility for participation in programs for highly capable students.
2. Providing initial special services and programs to an identified highly capable student.

Parental permission notice shall include:

- A. A full explanation of the procedures for identification and program options.
- B. An explanation of the appeal process.

## **Referral:**

Each year, first grade referrals for potential highly capable students will be accepted. Referrals may come from any source including teachers, staff, parents, other students, and members of the community. Students may refer themselves. Anyone referring a student shall complete a Referral Form and submit it to the district office. These forms are available on the Highly Capable Program website, in school offices, or at the district office.

## **Assessment:**

Multiple criteria will be used in the assessment of students. All students nominated will be assessed in the following areas:

1. Academic skills
2. Cognitive abilities
3. Creativity

## **Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC)**

The role of the MSC is to determine the final selection of students to be placed in the elementary program according to WAC 392-170. The Director of Curriculum and Professional Development will appoint MSC members. The MSC will be comprised of:

1. Classroom teachers with training and expertise in teaching highly capable students.
2. School psychologist
3. District administrator or designee with responsibility for the supervision of the district’s program for highly capable students
4. Building principal

## **Analysis and Reporting of Assessment Results:**

An assessment matrix, designed by the MSC, will be used to document and summarize each student’s assessment data. Student profile information will be gathered and will include information on academic performance, creativity and other

items of value in the assessment process. A summary report will indicate whether the student qualifies or does not qualify for the program. A copy of the assessment report will be placed in the qualifying student’s permanent file. A copy of all assessment reports will be sent to the school principal upon completion of the assessment process.

## **Transfer Students:**

Students previously enrolled in a highly capable program outside the Central Valley School District will be screened to determine if they meet the criteria for enrollment in the Central Valley School District program. Previous test information in the student’s file will be considered by the MSC. Acceptance is also based on current enrollment openings.

## **Placement:**

All qualifying students will be invited to participate in the elementary Ables highly capable pull-out program. Parents will complete the Ables Notification and Permission for Placement Form prior to student being initially placed.

## **Exceptions to the Criteria:**

Exceptions may be made by the MSC for students whose test results do not meet the criteria because of special circumstances. For students showing potential, additional data may be gathered to determine program eligibility.

## **Notification to Parents:**

A letter will be sent to parents with a copy of the assessment results and the MSC’s decision for placement in the program. Parents will be notified of appeal rights and procedures.

## **Appeal Process:**

Decisions of the MSC can be appealed within 10 days of notification. The following procedures are in place for an appeal: [Policy 2190AP]

1. An appeal form is available on the CVSD Highly Capable Program website or from the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development at the district office.
2. Additional supporting evidence must be included in the information provided by the individual making the appeal.
3. The Appeals Committee will be comprised of the MSC and at least one additional professional who was not part of the decision being appealed.
4. The appeal will be reviewed by the MSC within 10 school days of receiving the written appeal. A written summary of findings will be sent to the person filing the appeal, and a copy of the appeal and summary of findings will be included in the student’s cumulative file. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

## **For more information contact:**

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