

Identification-2nd, 5th and 8th Grade

Students in 2nd, 5th and 8th grade will be assessed for placement in the high ability program utilizing a multifaceted assessment process that includes qualitative, as well as quantitative data. Utilizing NWEA, a standardized achievement test designed to assess student achievement in reading, math and science (in grades 5 and 8) as well as InView, an assessment of cognitive abilities that includes verbal reasoning, sequences, analogies and quantitative reasoning, students will be placed in high ability reading, high ability math or both (elementary level) or high ability language arts, high ability math or high ability science (secondary level) based on performance scores on these assessment instruments.

InView provides a Quantitative Reasoning score and a Verbal score that is used to make placement decisions. We no longer will be using a Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) as this is the least reliable indicator of a student's intellectual ability. Students may qualify with a Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning subscale score at the 96th percentile. Achievement scores on NWEA must also be at the 96th percentile or above. Students who meet these criteria are direct placements into high ability. Students who score within a *Standard Error of Measure (SEM)* with a Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning score between the 90th and 95th percentile (these numbers correlate to the 8th stanine) will be further evaluated using SIGS (Scales for Identifying Gifted Students). SIGS is used to inform the decision making process. It is not used to determine placement and as such is not shared with parents. High ability educational program placements are a committee decision and are based on various assessment measures.

In grades 3-11, possible assessments to be reviewed include NWEA (90% and above for each assessment window), ISTEP performance data in the possible high ability content area (high ability students are anticipated to score in the PASS+ range), IREAD 3 (high ability students are anticipated to score in the PASS+ range), PSAT 8, PSAT 9, PSAT 10, PSAT 11, SAT and ACT.

In the spring of grades 2, 5 and 8, parents will be notified if their student has qualifying scores. In the event that a student has qualifying scores or qualifies through the SEM Window in a specific content area but not all available content areas, the parent will need to complete an appeals form. In order to avoid bias in the identification process, the reviews are done blindly; no student names are shared with the committee until after placement decisions have been made.