



INFORMATION PACKET

How can I nominate a child for Advanced Learning testing? Parents, teachers/staff, and community members may nominate a student to be tested, but a signed *Parent/Guardian Permission* form is **required** to test. Teachers and community members should give a *Parent/Guardian* form to parents of students they wish to nominate. A *Teacher/Educator Input* form is also required. Both forms are due October 8, 2009*.
*(Kindergarten students only: The *Teacher/Educator Input Form* is due Nov 12, 2009; *Parent/Guardian* form is due Oct 8, 2009.)

Where can I get nomination forms? Nomination materials are available at elementary and middle school offices, the Bilingual Family Center, and at Enrollment Services at the John Stanford Center. Materials are also available at www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml.

Where do I turn in my nomination materials? Give the completed Parent/Guardian Permission Forms to your *school secretary* at Seattle Public elementary or middle schools or mail directly to Advanced Learning at the address above. Do not give Parent/Guardian Permission forms to teachers. Teachers may return Teacher/Educator Input forms to school secretaries or mail via campus or US mail. Nomination forms may also be hand-delivered to the lobby of the Stanford Center, 2445 Third Ave. S. We do not accept faxed or e-mailed applications. *Private school families should mail materials to Advanced Learning along with the non-refundable \$90 processing fee or hand-deliver to the Stanford Center.*

If I live outside the Seattle School District boundaries, can I nominate my child for testing? No. Students must live within the school district boundaries in order to test or must be currently enrolled in a Seattle Public School.

Will I be notified of my child's test date? Yes, test date appointment letters are mailed. Parents/Guardians who have not received a test date letter by mid-November should contact the Advanced Learning office. Cognitive testing will be conducted from late-October to mid-December. Achievement testing will be completed by mid-January 2010. Some schools will have Saturday test sessions.

When will private school students be tested? Students not currently enrolled in Seattle Public Schools will test on Saturdays. Tests will be administered at various Seattle Public School elementary schools. Test appointment letters with dates and locations will be mailed or e-mailed sometime after the October 8 deadline. Some students will require two Saturday test sessions depending on results from the cognitive test.

Can parents observe while their child is being tested? No. It can be disruptive for children taking our tests. Children tend to perform better when they are not being observed.

When do I receive my child's test results? Final eligibility results and test scores will be mailed on or around January 29, 2010. Test results and eligibility are reported by mail only and are not reported early by phone, e-mail, or fax.

NOMINATION FORMS DUE OCTOBER 8, 2009



What kinds of tests are administered? All students will take a test that measures their cognitive ability (the *Cognitive Abilities Test*). In addition, reading and math achievement tests may also be required. We will use achievement test results from the WASL (Spring 2009) or the MAP (*Measures of Academic Progress*, newly administered in our district beginning Fall 2009). Students with no recent reading and math achievement tests on record may be given the *Woodcock-Johnson Achievement Test* (grades k-1), the *Iowa Test of Basic Skills* (grades 2-7), or the MAP. Eligibility for the Spectrum Young Scholars program (grades 1-2) does not require achievement testing. Please see our website: www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/eligtestcriteria.htm for further details.

Can reading and math achievement tests be submitted for consideration? Students who are not currently enrolled in Seattle Public schools who took standardized reading and math achievement tests done in a school setting no earlier than March 1, 2009 may submit score reports. Score reports must be in the Advanced Learning office by December 16, 2009. Only scores that are nationally normed (e.g., *ITBS*, *ERB*) or scores from WASL tests can be considered. Submitted scores become a part of the student's testing record and are not used in lieu of the *Cognitive Abilities Test*.

Is there a process to appeal a decision that a student is not found eligible? Yes. Specific information concerning the appeal process will be included in eligibility letters and is available on the Advanced Learning website. Private assessments will only be considered during the appeal process.

Do students retest each year to retain eligibility? Students who enroll in a program do not retest. Students enrolled in the Accelerated Progress Program (APP), in a Spectrum Program, or at an Advanced Learning Opportunity (ALO) school who receive an Advanced Learning progress report, do not need to retest to retain eligibility. This includes students rising from 5th to 6th grade. **Students found eligible for a program during the 2009-10 testing cycle who do not attend a program for 2010-11 will need to retest during the next testing cycle.** Students who apply for a program but are placed on a waitlist are given an extension but must enroll by the end of Open Enrollment for the next year or *retest*.

Is eligibility testing available for 8th graders? No. Eligibility testing is not required for entry into the International Baccalaureate program (offered at Sealth and Ingraham) or to access Advanced Placement courses (offered at nine high schools in the district).

***My child is in a private school. What should I use for the student identification number?** If you have ever applied to enroll your child with Seattle Public Schools or have previously applied for testing, your child has a Seattle Public Schools ID number. Private school families who do not know, or do not have, an SPS ID number, should leave it blank. Do not use social security numbers.

***Why is ethnicity requested on the nomination form?** Ethnicity is a required field when assigning Seattle Public Schools ID numbers and is necessary for all students who do not yet have an ID. If your child is not currently enrolled in Seattle Public Schools and does not have a Seattle Public Schools ID number, please choose from the following: AI: Amer Indian; AN Alaskan Native; BL Black; CH Chinese; EI East Indian; FI Filipino; GY Gypsy; HA Hisp Asian or Pac Islander; HB Hisp Black; HI Hisp Indian; HW Hisp White; JN Japanese; KO Korean; NA Native Amer or other Alaskan Native; OA Other Asian or Pac Islander; SA Samoan; SO Southeast Asian; VI Vietnamese; WH White.



What are Advanced Learning programs and services? Advanced Learning programs provide complex and accelerated curricula for academically gifted students. Advanced Learners come from all cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds, and have diverse abilities and achievement profiles. They typically need differentiated programs and services provided in an environment that encourages and nurtures inquiry, flexibility, and critical and creative thinking. The Advanced Learning office coordinates Advanced Learning programs/eligibility testing and the administration of College Board/Advanced Placement exams.

Program	Grades Served	Eligibility Testing	Curriculum
Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO)	1-8	Not required	Enriched and accelerated curriculum in reading and math
Spectrum Young Scholars	1-2	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading and mathematics (typically one-year above assigned grade level)
Spectrum	3-8	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading (language arts) and mathematics (typically one-year above assigned grade level)
Accelerated Progress Program (APP)	1-8	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading (language arts) and mathematics based on student need (typically two-years above assigned grade level)
International Baccalaureate	9-12*	Not required	Rigorous high school curriculum based on an internationally developed and reviewed curricular program that can lead to college credit
Advanced Placement	9-12*	Not required	Rigorous high school curriculum administered by the College Board that can lead to college credit.

*Eligibility testing is not required to access the high school programs and testing is not available for 8th graders.

Should I nominate and have my child tested for one of these programs? Here is a beginning list of characteristics to consider when nominating.

- Verbal skills**
 - ✓ Has an advanced vocabulary for his/her age
 - ✓ Seems to continuously talk and ask questions
- Thinking skills**
 - ✓ Is imaginative; has lots of ideas
 - ✓ Can come up with many interesting solutions to problems
- Learning behaviors**
 - ✓ Understands information quickly; remembers what has been learned
 - ✓ Wants to work on more difficult things; may not finish regular assignments because wants to spend time doing projects he/she thinks are more interesting
- Motivation**
 - ✓ Is very interested in certain topics/projects and wants to work on them all the time
 - ✓ Does not want or need a lot of direction for completing a task; likes to figure it out on his/her own
- Social-emotional development**
 - ✓ Is sensitive to the feelings of others and is concerned with fairness
 - ✓ May be a perfectionist and/or become frustrated with mistakes
 - ✓ May prefer to interact with students who are older and/or adults
- Reading**
 - ✓ Is a very strong reader, reading above grade level and/or reading at an early age
- Math skills**
 - ✓ Is very interested in math, works above grade level in math and/or shows an interest in numbers at an early age

Please see our website for additional information
<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml>



PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION FORM

(THIS SIGNED NOMINATION FORM IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ALL TESTING.)

Student's Last Name	First Name	Middle	7-digit Seattle Public Schools ID # (required)*
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)			Grade (09-10)
Home Address		Zipcode	School Currently Attending (09-10)
Phone Number(s)			Date of Birth
E-mail address			Gender
If your child needs special testing accommodations as specified in an IEP or 504 plan, please check here. Send a copy of the 504 plan to the address above as early as possible prior to testing. <input type="checkbox"/>			First Language Spoken at Home
Has your child ever been nominated and evaluated for eligibility for an Advanced Learning program in Seattle Public Schools? Yes ___ No ___ If "Yes," what year was your child evaluated?			Ethnicity*

Seattle Public Schools Parents/Guardians:

I grant permission for my child to be tested by the Advanced Learning program. Testing of cognitive ability will be administered to all students. Achievement testing may also be administered. I have been provided an explanation of the procedures for identification, program options, and the appeal process (WAC 392-170-047).

Your signature _____ Date _____

Private School Parents/Guardians:

I grant permission for my child to be tested by the Advanced Learning program. Testing of cognitive ability will be administered to all students. Achievement testing may also be administered. I have been provided an explanation of the procedures for identification, program options, and the appeal process (WAC 392-170-047).

Your signature _____ Date _____

(Families not currently enrolled in Seattle Public Schools must include a check for a non-refundable processing fee of \$90)

Signature required by WAC 392-170-04

*Please see page two of Information Packet.

Parent/Guardian permission for All GRADES is due October 8, 2009
Permission forms may be hand-delivered to the Stanford Center or mailed to Advanced Learning.
Forms for current Seattle Public School students may be submitted to your school office.