



INFORMATION PACKET

Nomination/Referral for Advanced Learning Programs Summer Testing Session

Who is eligible for Advanced Learning summer testing? The Summer Testing Session is available to students who meet **all** the following criteria: 1) The student relocated to Seattle from outside the District on or after October 1, 2007; 2) The student has a verifiable address within the Seattle Public Schools boundaries by August 13, 2008; 3) The student is enrolled in Seattle Public Schools in grades 1-8 for the 2008-2009 school year prior to the August 13, 2008; 4) The student did not participate in the regular 2007-2008 testing cycle; and 5) **The completed nomination packet is received in our office by June 17, 2008.**

How can I nominate a child for Advanced Learning summer testing? Parents, teachers, staff, and community members may nominate a student to be tested, but a signed *Parent Permission* form is required to test. A *Teacher/Educator Input* form is also required. **Both forms are due in our office by June 17, 2008.** If your child did not participate in the WASL as a student in Seattle Public Schools and you have current achievement testing data in reading and mathematics for your student from your previous school district (e.g., Stanford Achievement Tests, ITBS, CTBS), please submit copies of that information along with your application. *Please realize that many of the programs are already at capacity. To determine if the program you are interested in has available seats, please contact Enrollment Services at (206) 252-4765 or (206) 252-0760.* **The Teacher/Educator Input form is available on the website:**
www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/documents/SummerTeacherInput.pdf.

Where can I get nomination forms? Nomination materials are available at Enrollment Centers, the Bilingual Family Center (252-7750) and at the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence. Materials are also available on our website at www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml.

When are nominations due? Signed *Parent Permission* forms and *Teacher/Educator Input* forms are due **June 17, 2008.**

Where do I turn in my nomination materials? You may hand deliver nomination materials to the reception area at the John Stanford Center, 2445 Third Ave South, or mail them directly to Advanced Learning, MS 32-936, PO Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1165 (do not use the street address for mailing). We **DO NOT** accept faxed *or* e-mailed applications. **Forms must be mailed prior to June 17, 2008. Do NOT submit forms to your child's school office. They must be submitted to the Advanced Learning Office.**

Will I be notified of my child's test date? Cognitive testing will begin on August 18, 2008 and end on August 20, 2008. Dates and times for testing are provided in test appointment letters mailed to parents in late June. Achievement testing, if needed, will take place on August 21 or 22, 2008. **No appointments will be rescheduled.**

What kinds of tests are administered? All students will take a test that measures their cognitive ability (the Cognitive Abilities Test). A reading and math achievement test may be administered depending on grade level and eligibility requirements.

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.



What are the eligibility categories and testing criteria?

Eligibility Category	Testing Information & Eligibility Criteria				Program Eligibility Options
	Grades Tested*	Cognitive Ability All students take the Cognitive Abilities Test	Reading & Math Achievement**	Teacher Input	
Academically Highly Gifted	K-7	Threshold*** of the 98 th percentile in 2 out of 3 domains	Threshold of the 95 th percentile in both areas	Required	APP (Grades 1-12) Spectrum (Grades 1-8) ALO (Grades 1-8) General Education
Academically Gifted	K-1	Threshold of the 90 th percentile in 2 out of 3 domains	Not needed	Required	Spectrum Young Scholars (Grades 1-2) ALO (Grades 1-2) General Education
Academically Gifted	2-4	Threshold of the 87 th percentile in 2 out of 3 domains	Threshold of the 87 th percentile in both areas	Required	Spectrum Intermediate (Grades 3-5) ALO (Grades 3-5) General Education
Academically Gifted	5-7	Threshold of the 87 th percentile in 2 out of 3 domains	Threshold of the 87 th percentile in both areas.	Required	Spectrum Middle School (Grades 6-8) ALO (Grades 6-8) General Education

*Testing is available for K-7th grades only. We do not test 8th graders.

**Depending upon the grade, students' WASL scores are reviewed or students are administered an achievement test.

***Thresholds are general break points and not an absolute qualifier/disqualifier.

If I live outside the Seattle School District boundaries, can I nominate my child for testing? Yes, however your student **must** have enrolled in the Seattle Public Schools prior to August 13, 2008.

When do I receive my child's test results? Final eligibility results and test scores will be mailed by August 25, 2008. **Test results and eligibility are NOT reported early or by phone, e-mail, or fax.**

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. Also, private assessments will only be considered during the appeal process.

How long will my child retain eligibility? You must apply for an Advanced Learning program for the 2008-2009 school year to retain eligibility. If your child is placed on a program waitlist, your child remains eligible through the next open enrollment opportunity. Eligibility expires unless your child participates in an Advanced Learning program the next school year.

If my child is not found eligible at this time, when can we try again? Due to consideration of test norms and validity, participation in the summer testing session *disqualifies* students from participating in the normal testing cycle that begins in October 2008. Testing standards require that a year pass before the same test can be re-administered. Therefore, the next time your child may test for eligibility would be during the 2009-2010 cycle.

NOMINATIONS FORMS DUE JUNE 17, 2008

Please check our website for additional information

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml>



Please be aware that our staff is on vacation June 30, 2008 through August 8, 2008.



GENERAL INFORMATION

What are Advanced Learning programs and services? Advanced Learning programs provide rigorous and accelerated curriculum to meet the needs of students who are gifted and advanced learners. Advanced Learning administers the testing for eligibility for academically gifted programs and coordinates the administration of College Board/Advanced Placement exams for high school students taking Advanced Placement courses.

Program	Grades Served	Eligibility Testing	Curriculum
Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO)	1-8	NO	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 Intermediate	3-5	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading and mathematics (typically one-year above assigned grade level)
Spectrum Middle School	6-8	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading and mathematics (typically one-year above assigned grade level)
Accelerated Progress Program (APP)	1-8	YES	Accelerated curriculum in reading and mathematics based on student need (typically two-years above assigned grade level)
International Baccalaureate	9-12	NO	Rigorous high school curriculum based on an internationally developed and reviewed curricular program that can lead to college credit
Advanced Placement	9-12	NO	Rigorous high school curriculum that can lead to college credit. Administration of College Board/Advanced Placement exams for district high school students

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



THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO NOMINATE YOUR STUDENT

Parent/Guardian Permission for Advanced Learning Eligibility Determination SUMMER TESTING SESSION

Student name _____ ID # (required) _____
Last First Middle

Male ___ Female ___ Date of Birth _____ Grade (08-09) _____ School Name (08-09) _____

Ethnicity _____ Child's first language/language spoken at home _____

Parent/guardian name (please print): _____

Mailing address _____ Seattle, WA 98 _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail address _____

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? _____

Seattle Public Schools Parents/Guardians:

I grant permission for my child to be tested by the Advanced Learning office. 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 _____

Signature required by WAC 392-170-047

**Parent permission (grades K – 7) is due June 17, 2008
Permissions may be submitted to Advanced Learning.**

THANK YOU