



ADVANCED LEARNING PROGRAMS

Seattle Public Schools offers a range of programs across grades 1-12 for students who may be learning more quickly or deeply than most of their classmates.

The **Spectrum Program** groups advanced learning students together for instruction. It provides a rigorous, accelerated curriculum aimed at one grade level above standard, typically for reading and mathematics. In Spectrum, for example, fifth graders study sixth grade math books. Spectrum is offered at almost every middle school, and in at least one school within each cluster of elementary schools. The program starts at first grade and ends at eighth grade. Students qualify for Spectrum by taking tests in the fall that are administered by the Office of Advanced Learning. Qualifying students typically perform in the top 10% of students nationwide on tests of reading and math.

The **Accelerated Progress Program (APP)** groups very advanced students together for instruction. It provides a rigorous, significantly accelerated curriculum aimed at two grade levels above standard in reading, math, science, and social studies. In APP, for example, fourth graders study sixth grade math books. Next year, APP will be offered at Thurgood Marshall and Lowell Elementary schools, at Washington and Hamilton International middle schools, and at Garfield High School. The program starts at first grade and ends at twelfth. Students qualify for APP by taking Advanced Learning Office tests in the fall. They qualify by performing in the top 5% of students nationally in reading and math and in the top 2% of students on school aptitude tests.

Advanced Learning Opportunity (ALO) programs are offered in 17 elementary schools and at Madison Middle School. In collaboration with the Office of Advanced Learning, these programs are designed by the staff at each ALO site. Rather than grouping advanced students together in separate classrooms, ALO programs work to create adjusted expectations for advanced students within the regular classroom. ALO students are identified both by the same tests used for Spectrum and APP or by teacher recommendation. These students have their progress monitored by special ALO report cards that aim at one-grade-level-above-normal expectations.

At high school, our district offers Honors classes and two college-level programs, **Advanced Placement (AP)** and **International Baccalaureate (IB)**. Both AP and IB provide teachers with detailed college courses that require students to demonstrate what they have learned on very tough exams that are graded by examiners at the national level. AP and IB courses are so challenging that 90% of colleges will offer credit to students who can pass the exams. IB is offered at Chief Sealth HS and Ingraham HS. AP is offered at all our other high schools. There are no tests a student needs to pass to take AP or IB courses, just a willingness to study very hard at a college level. AP and IB classes are excellent preparation for success in college.

For more information about Seattle Public Schools Advance Learning programs, please visit our website: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.dxml>