

**Educational Services for  
Gifted and High Ability Students  
in the  
Iowa City Community School District**

Parent Information Meeting

March 6, 2017

IowaCitySchools.org/Programs or Departments for ELP website

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**Deadline to submit online or paper Parent Information Forms:**

**Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. (Grades 3-5)**

**<https://goo.gl/forms/WcQSp5kc1bJFcBc83>**



## ELP Mission Statement

The mission of gifted education in the Iowa City Community Schools is to provide challenge, enrichment, and/or acceleration to meet gifted students' academic and social/emotional needs.

## Philosophy of K-12 Gifted Education

The Iowa City Community School District recognizes the special needs of gifted students by providing differentiated opportunities to develop their abilities, talents, and interests.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Iowa City Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, disability, or socioeconomic status in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact the District's Director of Equity at 1725 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245, 319-688-1000.

# Definition of a Gifted Student

Gifted students are defined as those students who demonstrate exceptional ability or potential in academic and/or intellectual areas. These students require appropriately differentiated instruction and educational services commensurate with their abilities and needs beyond those provided by the regular school program. (Iowa Code 257.44)

## ELP Student Goals

- ✿ Become independent life-long learners.
- ✿ Develop intellectual and creative abilities through challenging instructional activities and materials.
- ✿ Work with others of similar abilities.
- ✿ Receive appropriate academic guidance and counseling.
- ✿ Receive career counseling and exploration activities.

# Overview of ELP Services

- ✿ Elementary Level
  - ✿ Three levels of services including targeted, intensive, and/or acceleration
- ✿ Junior High Level
  - ✿ Literacy 7E, an advanced strand in Literacy 7
  - ✿ Seminar class for eighth graders involving trimester based units of study
- ✿ Senior High Level
  - ✿ Counseling focus on post secondary planning, career exploration, and social/emotional development



# Elementary Services

based on Iowa Code TAG & Dept of Ed Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

## Universal (gr K-6)

- \* Services provided by regular classroom teachers through differentiation
- \* Students' learning needs monitored by classroom and/or district assessments in combination with teacher observations
- \* Collaboration with ELP teachers as needed

## Targeted (gr K-6)

- \* Services provided by ELP teachers
- \* Address Specific Ability Aptitude
- \* At least top 3%-5% of students in each building based on *building norms*
- \* Grades K-2: ongoing universal screening & talent development, trimester enrichment
- \* Grades 3-6: nationally standardized tests, district tests, teacher and parent information, student work
- \* Reviewed annually

## Intensive (gr 4-6)

- \* Services provided by ELP teachers
- \* Address General Ability Aptitude
- \* At least top 1%-3% of students in each building based on *building norms*
- \* Formal identification at end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade using blended scoring system
- \* Nationally standardized tests, district tests, teacher and parent information, student work
- \* Reviewed annually

# K-6 Screening Procedures

## Grades K-2

- ELP staff present in-class lessons each trimester: visual/spatial/creativity; language arts, math/ analytical thinking
- Students' work evaluated on rubric system in collaboration with classroom teachers
- Top 3%-5% of students participate in enrichment lessons with ELP teacher
- Parents notified if child participates in pull-out lessons
- Re-identified each trimester

## Grades 3-6

- Evaluate CogAT & Iowa Assessments subtest scores for Targeted services or composite scores for Intensive services
- Blended point system considered for Intensive services (17 points minimum)
- Also considered
  - District assessments
  - Information from teachers and parents
  - Student work
- Evaluated annually or more often if needed
- Curriculum correlated to Iowa or Common Core Standards

# Cognitive Abilities Test

- ✿ All second grade students take the CogAT Screener; those in the top 20% to 25% range in their building take the full test
- ✿ Grades 3-5 students are in the screening pool based on teacher or parent recommendation or IA Assessments Core/Composite 99 NPR
- ✿ Verbal battery appraises language reasoning
- ✿ Quantitative battery measures mathematical reasoning
- ✿ Nonverbal battery appraises abstract reasoning
- ✿ Administered in two or three sessions by ELP teachers; parents are notified of testing schedule in advance of testing dates.
- ✿ Tests are timed, students fill in circles to answer questions, tests are machine scored. No prior studying for these tests.
- ✿ Percentile scores are based on national norms
- ✿ Parents notified of the screening results in June via U.S. mail. Any student may be re-evaluated for ELP services if their demonstrated needs change. Current 2016-2017 ELP grade 3-6 students remain.

# Whole Grade Acceleration

## \* Screening

- ☘ Parent or teacher request to building principal
- ☘ Teacher completes *Checklist for K-6 Whole Grade or Subject Acceleration Requests*
- ☘ Principal reviews and decides to continue acceleration process or address needs at building level
- ☘ Acceleration Guidelines on district website  
<http://goo.gl/sGqe4i>

## \* Assessment

- ☘ If principal supports continuing acceleration process, contacts ELP or math coordinator
- ☘ Testing includes nationally normed ability test (CogAT); district language arts and math assessments by district assessment specialists
- ☘ Teacher(s) and parent(s) asked for their input
- ☘ Team meeting to review results; principal makes final recommendation
- ☘ If approved, 10 week monitoring period
- ☘ Math Acceleration Guidelines



### ELP Eligibility Criteria for Intensive Level Services

Students may enter the ELP screening process through parent, teacher or score nomination. Eligibility is based on a blended assessment process to identify students on a point system. The screening process will begin with scores from the Cognitive Abilities Test and Iowa Assessments. Students in grades 3 through 5 who earn >17 points, based on CogAT Age Percentile Composite and Iowa Assessments NPR Core Composite or Complete Composite scores, will be eligible for Intensive Level services.

Students in grades 3-6 who are currently in ELP may remain at that status unless their needs change. Any student may be re-evaluated for ELP services if his/her demonstrated needs change. Students may be nominated for screening on successive years if they have not qualified.

CogAT Age Percentile	CogAT Point Value	IA Assessments NPR	IA Assessments Point Value
75	1	75	0
76	1	76	0
77	1	77	0
78	1	78	0
79	1	79	0
80	2	80	1
81	2	81	1
82	2	82	1
83	3	83	1
84	3	84	1
85	4	85	2
86	4	86	2
87	4	87	2
88	4	88	2
89	4	89	2
90	5	90	3
91	6	91	4
92	7	92	5
93	8	93	6
94	9	94	7
95	10	95	8
96	11	96	9
97	12	97	10
98	13	98	11
99	14	99	12

# Advanced Mathematics (Accelerated Math Sequence is supervised by Math Dept.)

- ✿ Pre-Algebra 6: this is the first course in the super-accelerated math sequence in the Iowa City Schools and it's offered to qualifying sixth graders. Students are identified for this option by the math department. Pre-Algebra instruction is offered after the end of the elementary school day at two locations.
- ✿ Students who qualify to take Pre-Algebra in 7th grade are in this accelerated sequence. They can complete AP Calculus in their senior year. If they take Pre-Algebra as 7th graders, they will take Algebra as 8th graders.
- ✿ Super-Accelerated Math Sequence: Students who completed Pre-Algebra in the 6th grade are eligible to take Algebra as 7th graders and Geometry Honors as 8th graders.
- ✿ Please visit the ICCSD math website for more information.

# Junior High Program Components

At the junior high school level (grades 7 and 8), programming for gifted students is delivered in several ways:

- ✿ Literacy 7E is an advanced strand in Literacy 7. It provides challenges for students with exceptionally strong literacy skills. Eligibility criteria are explained on the ELP website.
- ✿ Seminar is an elective class for advanced 8th grade students. It is offered as a full year, alternate day class at all three junior high schools. The class is designed for the exchange of ideas in research and discussion form. Eligibility criteria are explained on the ELP website.
- ✿ Advanced math classes are also available.



# Senior High Program Components

- ✿ At the senior high school level (grades 9 through 12), programming for gifted students offers a variety of options. Components of the program include honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, and Post Secondary Enrollment opportunities.
- ✿ A counseling component is available for eligible students to address post secondary planning, career exploration, and social/emotional development. Eligibility criteria are explained on the ELP website.