

Fullerton Public Schools High Ability Learners Program

Policy and Philosophy

Fullerton Public Schools shall provide educational opportunities for high ability learners that meet their needs, interests and abilities while also complying with the guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education (Rule 3). The provision of educational opportunity for high ability learners is contingent upon the availability of funds from local, state or federal sources.

School personnel shall:

1. Nominate and assess students using multiple procedures.
2. Notify parents and teachers of high ability students within the first thirty days of the school year.
3. Attempt to identify high ability learners throughout the school year.
4. Have in place a review and appeals procedure for meeting the needs of high ability students.

Definition of High Ability Learners

A high ability learner is a student who has high performance abilities in academic, creativity and/or artistic fields. The student requires opportunities beyond the regular curriculum to expand the use of those abilities.

Program Goals

1. Identify the students of high ability and assess their needs.
2. Create enrichment opportunities for the students of Fullerton Public Schools.
3. Provide staff development to instruct teachers on differentiating the curriculum.
4. Provide advanced course work and/or training for high ability learners.
5. Evaluate the program goals, activities, and procedures.

Identification Procedures

Automatic

Achievement Testing

Identification will take place in June of each year by the counselor's examining of student test scores from the MAP, NSCAS (state test), and Pre-ACT and ACT assessments. Once a student has a qualifying score he will remain on the Fullerton H.A.L. list for two years.

1. Counselor/Principals examine scores to determine H.A.L. qualifiers.
2. Parents of qualifying students are notified.
3. Teachers of qualifying students are notified. Below is the criteria needed to qualify as a H.A.L. student at Fullerton Schools.

A student may qualify through any of the tests/categories below.

Grades

K-2 None

Achievement Testing Qualifications

Grades 3-12 (scores from grade 3 to 12)

MAPS – must score 96th percentile or above in either Reading, Math, Language or Total Composite

PreACT – must score **26 or above** in English, Reading, Math, Science or Total

ACT – must score **26 or above** in English/Reading/Math/Science or Total

NSCAS/STATE TESTS – must reach “**exceeding**” in Reading, Science or Math

***Students who transfer to Fullerton from out of state may have alternate norm-referenced tests that could be used for HAL identification.**

Students remain on the HAL list for two years with a qualifying score.

Appeal Process

All appeals will be handled by following the Fullerton Public Schools grievance procedures as stated in the Elementary and High School Handbooks.

Program Elements and Services

Fullerton Schools provides high ability students with the following services and program elements:

1. Differentiated instruction at all grade levels.
2. Grade acceleration when deemed appropriate by the faculty and parents.
3. Leadership training to students of grades 4-6 and 9-12.
4. Enrichment programs and competitions.

Evaluation

Fullerton Schools will use multiple assessments to determine the success of their high ability learners programs.

1. Student products will be evaluated in most of the activities being conducted.
2. Participation in each activity will also be logged to determine which activities are reaching students.

Future goals and objectives will result from compiling the results and allowing the high ability learners committee to reestablish the district’s program.

Professional Development

All staff development opportunities are promoted to the entire K-12 staff at Fullerton Public Schools. In each HAL activity that will be conducted, staff development will be provided to those who deem it necessary for the success of their program.

Fullerton Schools uses its qualified and skilled staff to conduct in-service for the entire K-12 teaching staff. We also make use of the ESU #7 staff to help us with staff development efforts in all areas including high ability learners. Fullerton Schools also sends staff to staff development opportunities around the state and country.

Program Management Outline

The district’s superintendent/elementary principal or designee will oversee the Fullerton high ability learners program. This person is responsible for the HAL application process

as well as the fiscal implications and procedures. It is the duty of this coordinator to see to it that all materials, facility needs and other related elements are provided for all HAL programs of the school district.

Planning for the Fullerton high ability learners program is overseen by the Fullerton Administrative Team, which meets on a monthly basis to cover topics of curriculum development and enhancement.