

Wheeler Central Schools' High Ability Learner Plan

Definition of a High Ability Learner:

A High Ability Learner is a learner who gives evidence of high performance capability in such areas as intellectual, creative or artistic capacity or in specific academic fields and who requires accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs in order to develop those capabilities fully.

Identification of Students:

Wheeler Central uses several methods to identify HAL students. This includes scoring at or above the 90th percentile on a core test of the current MAPS tests, scoring Advanced on any of the NSCAS tests, or scoring a composite score of 25 or above on the ACT test. A new list of High Ability Learners is created each May. Students scoring at or above the 90th percentile on any of the most recent MAP tests (math, English, reading or science) of the school year will remain on the High Ability Learner list for the following school year. Additionally, students are added to that list after each MAP testing during that school year.

Program activities:

Students in the elementary school are offered daily enrichment time. Activities are planned by the elementary teacher team in which one teacher has attended the Nebraska Gifted Conference. Middle school students participate at the annual Northern Tier Enrichment Day (grades 5-8). Middle and high school students receive advanced classes and the opportunity to attend workshops offered through Nebraska colleges.

Program Goals:

- To assess and identify students in grades 3-12.
- To provide services for students that incorporate various teaching methods, activities and materials that meet the needs of the learners.
- To communicate the high ability learner program components with parents, community patrons, students and staff.
- To evaluate the program, activities and procedures regularly for effectiveness.
- To recognize and foster educational rigor.