

# **ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **High Ability Learner**

### **I. Philosophy**

It shall be the policy of the Elgin Public Schools to provide a plan for high ability learners subject to the availability of funding at the local, state and federal level. In recognition that all children have special needs, Elgin Public School's Gifted and Talented Education Program offers enrichment, acceleration, and independent study beyond the basic education presented in the regular classroom. The rationale is to develop and expand each child's ability to the greatest potential.

### **II. Operational Definition of a High Ability Learner**

A high ability learner is defined as a student that excels markedly in ability to think, reason, judge, invent or create and who needs special educational services to assist him/her to achieve their potential.

### **III. Goals and Objectives:**

1. Proved staff development activities in working with high ability learners.
2. Modify and implement curriculum for high ability learners
3. Encouraged and motivate students to achieve at higher levels of learning.
4. Provide an environment that fosters the joy of learning.
- 5.

### **IV. Identification Procedures**

#### **Identification**

The identification of high ability students in our school will follow the procedure listed below. Students meeting one of the following requirements will meet our entrance requirements into the Gifted and Talented Education Program offered at the Elgin Public Schools. All students in our school will have the opportunity to be considered for entrance into the program. Upon working through the identification process, the Elgin Public Schools will not discriminate by sex, religion, ethnic background, race, or disability.

1. Students scoring at least a 27 cumulative composite on the ACT test.
2. Students scoring at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the MAP test (Measures of Academic Progress) or students who score comparatively on an equivalent achievement test.

It is the belief of the Elgin Public Schools that students can be high ability learners in specific academic areas. The Elgin Public Schools will recognize students as high ability learners in specific academic areas if they meet one of the requirements listed below.

1. Students scoring at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the MAP test or an equivalent achievement test in specific academic areas such as Math, Science, Reading, and Language.
2. Recommendation of teachers, counselors, administration, and school psychologists as to a student's apparent high ability in a specific academic area or as a high ability learner in all areas.
3. Students will be added to the high ability learner program on a yearly basis. They will be taken off the program if they do not meet the standards over an extended period of time.

### Appeal Procedure

Any parent/guardian may appeal a decision made by the school regarding high ability learners, by addressing their concern to the administration and ultimately the Board of Education.

### Notification

Students who are identified as high ability learners will be notified in writing by an invitation to participate in activities designed to meet the needs of the high ability learner. The Invitation will be mailed to the parent/guardian of the student that meet one of the identification requirements. Such notification will take place before the designated activity begins. The sponsor of the activity will be responsible for the invitation.

## **V. Description of the continuum of Program Services**

It is the intent of the Elgin Public Schools to meet the needs of the high ability learner as much as possible in the regular classroom by:

1. modification of curriculum in the regular classroom.
2. enrollment in advanced placement classes
3. enrollment in dual credit and college classes

Advanced placement, dual credit, and college credit classes are available on site by current faculty and through the distance learning classroom which has connectivity to Northeast Community College as well as other colleges in Nebraska.

High ability learners also have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in many of the following activities:

1. Destiny Imagination
2. Quiz Bowl
3. Academic Decathlon
4. Academic contest at Northeast Community College
5. Wayne State Math Contest
6. Technological Arts Contest
7. Various Fine Arts Activities

## **VI. Evaluation and Future Planning**

High ability learners will be evaluated by:

1. The successful completion of accelerated and/or compacted programs.
2. The successful completion of dual and college credit classes.
3. Authentic assessments.
4. Assessments for high ability learners written in conjunction with the assessment of the standards.

## **VII. Staff Development**

Elgin Public Schools utilized the High Ability Learner funds available through the Nebraska Department of Education to provide in-service training for the entire staff.

The staff development allowed the school to meet the needs of the high ability learner through curriculum modification and differentiation.

## **VIII. Management Plan**

All staff members of the Elgin Public Schools will be responsible for providing instruction to high ability learners. Nancy Valardie provided initial inservice training and will continue to provide follow up session working with the staff on the implementation of the gifted program. Because training has been completed the focus will turn to providing activities associated with high-ability learner education, supplies and materials.