

The Pierce Public Schools HAL program directly acknowledges and promotes academic achievement among students with high ability. Students participate in activities that challenge them academically and encourage responsibility in self-learning and exploration. Specifically, the program will focus on promoting creative- and critical-thinking skills among the student participants.

1. Reasons for selecting the projects or activities. A majority of funds will be spent on paying the educators supervising and organizing the program. It is believed that having the best, most highly motivated, adults is the most important component in having a successful HAL program. If appropriate, funds will also be spent to provide staff development for these educators so that they are well-versed in best practices relating to the needs of high ability students.

2. Identification of High Ability Learners

The High Ability Learners in Pierce Public Schools will be selected based on 3 criteria.

- ● MAP Growth score in the 90th percentile in Reading or Math
- ● Average report card grade of a 94% (High Honor Roll) or Higher in Reading, Math
or Science
- ● Teacher recommendation

2. Project Objective(s) or School Improvement Plan Component(s):

This program shall focus exclusively on the needs of children in grades 3-6 with high abilities. The program shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, or socio-economic status. The objective of the program shall be to expand opportunities for students to enhance their critical- and creative-thinking skills. This objective aligns with the District's school improvement plan which identifies improving academic skills for all children as a district-wide goal.

3. Project Activities. Students will meet with the two adult supervisors at an appointed time. Individual student needs will be addressed according to the area in which High Ability is shown and criteria are met. This may include, but is not limited to:

- ● Accelerated instruction (placement in grade level appropriate curriculum)
- ● Enrichment opportunities provided in or outside of the classroom
- ● Mentoring/ Partner work with appropriate, qualified person
- ● Participation in academic contests or teams
- ● Small group instruction and exploration of extended appropriate topics of interest
- ● Any other activity or curriculum deemed appropriate and beneficial to student

learning

4. Evaluation. A student survey will be administered at the conclusion of the program to determine whether the program has accomplished its primary goal of challenging high ability students to use critical- and creative-thinking skills.

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