

High Ability



Program Handbook

Northeast Dubois County School Corporation

- **High Ability Coordinator**
 - Andy Chinn
- **High Ability Identification Team**
 - Andy Chinn
 - Tina Fawks
 - Ryan Case
 - Tara Rasche
 - Camille Berg
 - Ben Nowotarski
 - Tacy Gutgsell
 - Denise Schroering
 - Kim Miley
 - Tina Terwiske
 - Brenda Ferguson

- **Philosophy**
 - Northeast Dubois County School Corporation strives to provide a learning environment that inspires tomorrow's minds, today. In turn, our system nurtures those qualities unique to each individual student. All students, including those that are economically disadvantaged, racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds receive an appropriate education.

- **Mission**

- The missions of the NDCSC is to provide a supportive and enriching learning environment for all students who perform at, or show the potential to perform at an outstanding level of accomplishment in the core academic areas of language arts and mathematics.

- **District Definition of High Ability Student**

- A high ability student performs at, or shows the potential to perform at an outstanding level of accomplishment in at least one domain when compared to other students of the same age, experience, or environment. A HA student is characterized by exceptional gifts, talents, motivation, or interest.

- **High Ability Identification Committee**

- The NDCSC High Ability Planning Committee members include the High Ability Coordinator / Curriculum Director, building level Principals, Teachers, Parents, and a community member. These individuals provide input regarding the high ability program design, student identification process, curriculum and instruction, as well as the professional development needs of staff members. This committee will meet at least twice a year.

- **Identification Process**

- Grades K-12

- **Step 1:** All students in grades K, 2, 5 will take the CogAT test for identification in High Ability programming. Students in grade 1 will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.
- **Step 2:** Ask for teacher nominations for high ability programming.
- **Step 3:** HA Committee reviews all nominations and test scores. A SAS (Standard Age Score) of 126 on the CogAT is required for nomination.
- **Step 4:** Committee constructs a list of students who will be in the NDCSC high ability program.
- **Step 5:** Parents will be notified.
- **Step 6:** If need because of appeal, illness, or moving in from a different school district, additional testing can be provided.

- **Appeals Process**

- When there is a disagreement about the identification or programming of a student in the High Ability program, an appeals process may be initiated. A parent, teacher, or administrator can begin this process by notifying the High Ability Coordinator and identifying the specific reasons for the appeal. This person will then meet with the High Ability Committee to voice concerns, where the committee will then meet to make a decision.

- **Withdrawal Process**

- Students who are not achieving in the High Ability program may be removed by parent request, administrator, guidance counselor, or classroom teacher. The withdrawal form attached must be submitted to the High Ability coordinator, where a conference will then be scheduled.

- **Individual File**

- An individual assessment file with student performance information on cognitive achievement and other measures will be maintained for each identified student and housed in permanent record.

- **Professional Development**

- Professional development is offered to all staff members:
 - Attendance at workshops targeting High Ability programs.
 - Attendance at conferences as they become available
 - each year.

