Elementary High Ability Identification

- The Indiana Code for High Ability Students requires that school districts use a variety of criteria to identify students for high ability services, including quantitative measures of both ability and achievement and qualitative checklists of high ability behavior and student potential.

- Standard-referenced achievement tests (e.g. IREAD and ILEARN) are used to determine the individual’s mastery of specific skills or knowledge. These are usually measures based on grade level standards but have limited value in identifying high ability students because they do not provide opportunity to demonstrate advanced or above grade level abilities or show what a student knows compared to others.

- Nationally norm-referenced tests like the CogAT and In View cognitive abilities assessments and the NWEA achievement assessment are appropriate for identification of high ability students.
MCCSC Elementary High Ability Services

Grades K-2:

- All MCCSC kindergarten students are given the CogAT cognitive screener. Students scoring in the 75% or higher on the screener are given the full cognitive CogAT battery.
- Students scoring in the 9th stanine on the full battery CogAT are identified as HA in English/Language Arts (verbal), Math (non-verbal/quantitative), or General Intellectual (all areas).
- Throughout the MCCSC, students are provided with differentiated instruction and opportunities for acceleration. Individual teachers and building principals work to develop the most appropriate educational experience possible for each child. These options may include grade level high ability cluster groups, grade skipping, flexible ability grouping for math and language arts, and inquiry based instruction.
MCCSC Elementary High Ability Services

Grades 3-6:

• Throughout the MCCSC, students are provided with differentiated instruction and opportunities for acceleration. Individual teachers and building principals work to develop the most appropriate educational experience possible for each child. These options may include grade level high ability cluster groups, grade skipping, flexible ability grouping for math and language arts, and inquiry based instruction.

• For students in grades four through six who clearly demonstrate high academic and intellectual ability, the MCCSC offers the Accelerated Learning Program for Students, ALPS. One classroom at each grade level, 4-6, is provided and serves the entire MCCSC school corporation. The program is housed at University School, transportation is provided.

• Placement in the elementary ALPS program requires formal high ability identification, any student may apply for placement in the program.
Identification for Elementary *ALPS* or Other High Ability Services

• Early in each academic year, the In View cognitive abilities assessment is administered to all third grade students in the MCCSC. Using the results of this test, qualifying students will take the NWEA math and/or reading achievement assessments.

• Based on In View and NWEA assessment scores, students scoring in the 9th stanine, 96-99% on verbal/reading and nonverbal/math subtests, will be mailed an application packet *inviting them to apply for possible placement in the elementary ALPS (Accelerated Learning Program for Students) self-contained HA program*. This year, the application packets will be mailed on Friday, March 26, 2021.

• If a student is not sent an elementary ALPS application packet, they may also apply for possible placement in the ALPS program. Families interested in this opportunity should speak with their child’s teachers or principal and may contact the Office of High Ability Education.
Identification for Elementary *ALPS* or Other High Ability Services

**Application Requirements**

- A specific identification/application timeline is provided each school year (see the next slide).
- Application portfolios are stored by the Office of High Ability Education for each student applicant. In addition to standardized test scores, the Coordinator of High Ability Education solicits the following to be included in the student’s portfolio:
  
  **Applicant Provides:**
  - Completed Parent Referral Form (includes Renzulli HA behavior checklist)
  - One example of the student’s writing that *he or she selects*

  **School Provides (submitted by the school):**
  - A copy of a student’s in class writing prompt
  - Student NWEA MAP Report
  - Teacher Referral Forms from the student’s teacher(s) (includes Renzulli GT behavior checklist and Teacher’s Observation of Potential in Students (TOPS) checklist)
  - Copies of report cards for first semester of grade three
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In View Cognitive Abilities Assessment administered to all MCCSC third and sixth grade students</td>
<td>October 26-November 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School High Ability Services Parent Information Meeting</td>
<td>No Meeting, PowerPoint provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school high ability placement notification letters mailed to qualifying incoming 7th grade students, 9th stanine (96-99%) on In View and NWEA. The high ability service options include advanced English/Language Arts instruction and the middle school ALPS program. Advanced math services are a separate placement process and are based on student’s current math level and achievement. Advanced math placement information will be sent in May.</td>
<td>Friday, February 5, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of middle school high ability services acceptance forms and placement appeals for qualifying students</td>
<td>Friday, February 19, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of middle school high ability program applications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Committee review of middle school HA/ALPS applications</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School High Ability Program notification letters mailed to applicants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for acceptance/decline to the Middle School ALPS Program for applicants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application (invitation to apply) materials mailed to families of 3rd grade students who meet the criteria for possible placement in the elementary ALPS program, 9th stanine (96-99%) on In View and NWEA assessments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary High Ability Services Parent Information Meeting NOT scheduled due to safety concerns</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of ALL incoming 4th grade high ability applications</td>
<td>Friday, April 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Committee review of incoming 4th grade portfolios for elementary high ability placement</td>
<td>April 12-April 29, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary High Ability notification letters mailed to applicants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for acceptance/decline to the Elementary School ALPS Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application materials for students entering 5th grade, 6th grade, and 8th grade are due on or before Friday, April 23, 2021.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Student portfolios will be received and securely maintained by:

Kimberly Williams, Coordinator of High Ability Services | 315 E. North Drive Bloomington, IN 47401 | Phone (812) 330-7700, kwilliam@mccsc.edu
Identification for Elementary ALPS or Other High Ability Services

- Members of the Elementary High Ability Identification Committee review each student portfolio to identify students who may benefit from participation in elementary high ability services, including the ALPS program.
- Placement in the elementary ALPS program requires the identification committee to formally identify a student as “General Intellectual” high ability.
- In addition to the self-contained ALPS classes in grades 4-6, individual elementary schools offer program options for identified high ability students. These options include grade level high ability cluster groups, subject grade skipping, flexible ability grouping for math and language arts, and inquiry based instruction.
- Application materials are due on or before Friday, April 9, 2021. You may send the application materials electronically (kwilliam@mccsc.edu), by fax (812 330-7813), or drop them off/mail them to the MCCSC Administration Building located at 315 E North Drive, 47401. The MCCSC High Ability Coordinator will solicit all required application materials from the school.
- Notification of placement decisions will be sent to all applicants and the schools.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- **What curriculum is included in the elementary ALPS program?**
The elementary ALPS program offers fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students the opportunity to complete grade-level requirements as well as appropriate enrichment and acceleration activities in all areas of the curriculum. Students will also have the opportunity to work with other grade level students at University School throughout the school day.

- **Does my student have to apply for the MCCSC elementary ALPS program?**
All third grade students (entering grade four for 2021-22) interested in the elementary school ALPS program must apply for placement.

- **When are applications for the elementary ALPS program due?**
Application materials for third grade students applying for the elementary ALPS program are due on or before **Friday, April 9, 2021**. You may send the application materials electronically (kwilliam@mccsc.edu), by fax (812 330-7813), or drop them off/mail them to the MCCSC Administration Building located at 315 E North Drive, 47401.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

• **Can students entering grade five and six apply for the elementary ALPS program?**
  Students entering grades five or six for the 2021-22 school year can also apply for the ALPS program. Applications for grades five and six are due on Friday, April 23, 2021.

• **Where can I find the parent referral form for my student’s application?**
  A copy of the parent referral form can be found on the MCCSC website under the High Ability Department. Click on High Ability Resources then click on the form.

• **How do I know my student’s application is complete and includes all of the required application materials?**
  The HA Coordinator will solicit all required application materials from the school and family in preparation for review from the HA Identification Committee. Each application portfolio will be complete!

• **When will I be notified about my student’s application/appeal for middle school HA services?**
  Notification letters for all applicants will be mailed Friday, April 30, 2021.
Other questions?

Information about MCCSC high ability services can be acquired by contacting your child’s school, contacting the Office of High Ability Education (kwilliam@mccsc.edu or (812) 330-7700), and through the MCCSC website at www.mccsc.edu.