



MCCSC Middle School High Ability Identification and Services

Winter 2021

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

Middle School 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. 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 *In View* cognitive abilities assessment and the NWEA achievement assessment are appropriate for identification of high ability students.

MCCSC Middle School High Ability Services

- All MCCSC middle schools offer self-contained *ALPS* classes, advanced language arts instruction, and advanced math classes (algebra and geometry) for students formally identified as high ability.
- The *Accelerated Learning Program for Students (ALPS)* offers academically and intellectually identified high ability middle school students the opportunity to participate in an advanced block of classes (science, English, and social studies) in both grades seven and eight.
- Students in all high ability classes can expect an enriched and accelerated curriculum as well as assignments that are more rigorous.
- Placement in advanced math classes is a separate identification process based on a student's current math level and achievement that takes place in May.
- Middle school high ability students also enroll in additional classes to meet the curricular requirements of the State of Indiana.

Identification for Middle School *ALPS* or High Ability Language Arts Classes

- Early in each academic year, the *In View* cognitive abilities assessment is administered to all sixth 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 sent a letter offering placement in the middle school *ALPS* program (advanced English, science, and social studies classes). Students only scoring in the 9th stanine, 96-99%, on verbal/reading subtests will be offered middle school high ability instruction in English/Language Arts. The qualifying score may be on the *In View* or NWEA or a combination of both.

Identification for Middle School *ALPS* or High Ability Language Arts Classes

- A specific identification/application timeline will be provided each school year, including appeals for placement recommendations. **No application materials are required for students recommended for high ability services based on the test scores mentioned on the previous slide, unless placement recommendations are being appealed.** For example, your student qualified for HA/Adv. ELA, but you want to apply for the *ALPS* program (advanced English, science, and social studies classes).
- **ANY STUDENT MAY APPLY FOR MCCSC HIGH ABILITY SERVICES.** If your student is not formally identified as general intellectual high ability (*ALPS* program) or high ability language arts based on the assessments listed, they may apply (appeal) for placement in high ability English language arts classes and/or the middle school *ALPS* program. Families interested in this opportunity should speak with their child's teachers or principal or may also contact the Office of High Ability Education.

2020-2021 High Ability Identification Timeline

Task/Event	Date
In View Cognitive Abilities Assessment administered to all MCCSC third and sixth grade students	October 26-November 6, 2020
Middle School High Ability Services Parent Information Meeting	No Meeting, PowerPoint provided
Middle school high ability placement notification letters mailed to qualifying incoming 7 th grade students, 9 th 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.	Friday, February 5, 2021
Deadline for submission of middle school high ability services acceptance forms and placement appeals for qualifying students	Friday, February 19, 2021
Deadline for submission of middle school high ability program applications	Friday, February 19, 2021
ID Committee review of middle school HA/ALPS applications	February 22-March 11, 2021
Middle School High Ability Program notification letters mailed to applicants	Friday, March 12, 2021
Deadline for acceptance/decline to the Middle School ALPS Program for applicants	Friday, March 26, 2021
Application (invitation to apply) materials mailed to families of 3 rd grade students who meet the criteria for possible placement in the elementary ALPS program, 9 th stanine (96-99%) on In View and NWEA assessments	Friday, March 26, 2021
Elementary School High Ability Services Parent Information Meeting, University Elementary School Cafeteria, Platform and Date TBD	TBD
Deadline for submission of ALL incoming 4 th grade high ability applications	Friday, April 9, 2021
ID Committee review of incoming 4 th grade portfolios for elementary high ability placement	April 12-April 29, 2021
Elementary High Ability notification letters mailed to applicants	Friday, April 30, 2021
Deadline for acceptance/decline to the Elementary School ALPS Program	Friday, May 14, 2021

Application materials for students entering 5th grade, 6th grade, and 8th grade are due on or before Friday, April 23, 2021.

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

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.



Identification for Middle School *ALPS* or High Ability Language Arts Classes- Application Requirements

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:

- A copy of a student's in class writing prompt or ILEARN writing prompt score
- Student NWEA MAP Report
- Teacher Referral Forms from the student's sixth grade 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 six

Identification for Middle School *ALPS* or High Ability Language Arts Classes

- Members of the Middle School Identification Committee will review applying student portfolios to identify students who may benefit from participation in middle school high ability services, including advanced English/Language Arts instruction and the middle school *ALPS* program.
- Application materials are due on or before **Friday, February 19, 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.
- Notification of placement decisions will be mailed to parents and schools.
- Placement in advanced math classes is a separate identification process based on a student's current math level and achievement that takes place in May.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- ***What classes are included in the ALPS program?***

The middle school ALPS program includes advanced English, science, and social studies classes.

- ***Does my student have to apply for middle school high ability services?***

Students who automatically qualify for high ability services based on test scores do not need to apply. Notification letters will be mailed on February 5, 2021 to students who automatically qualify for the MCCSC middle school ALPS program or HA/Adv. ELA.

- ***When are applications/appeals for middle school high ability services due for students who did not automatically qualify?***

Application materials for students applying/appealing for the middle school ALPS program or HA/Adv. ELA are due on or before **Friday, February 19, 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

- ***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, March 12, 2021.

- ***When will middle school math placements be determined?***

The middle school math placement process is a separate identification process that will take place in May. All MCCSC middle schools offer algebra and geometry classes for identified high ability students. Advanced math placements are based on a student's current math level and achievement.

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.