

Harlan Independent School District

PRIMARY TALENT POOL

2015-16



The Primary Talent Pool is a program for students identified as being high potential learners. High potential learners come from the top fourth of the entire student population in terms of achievement and frequently require special enrichment opportunities to remain educationally challenged. They often exhibit one or more characteristics of gifted students; however, under state regulations, students are not formally identified as gifted until they have completed the Primary program. The purpose of the Primary Talent Pool is to provide appropriate enrichment opportunities for identified students within the overall framework of the Primary program.

Students may be identified informally as having high potential in any of these areas: general intellectual ability, specific academic areas (reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies), creative and divergent thinking, leadership, and visual and performing arts (music, art, drama, and dance).

Students are identified as “high potential learners” using multiple sources of evidence which may include such things as:

- Work samples and collections of student work across time
- Anecdotal records
- Continuous progress data
- Available formal test data
- Parent interview or questionnaire
- Behavior checklists

Identification is informal which means that formal test data is not used to exclude or deny services to a student. Formal test data may be used, however, to confirm or diagnose a student’s potential.

Identification and placement decisions are made by the Primary Talent Pool Placement Committee which is composed of the principal, the guidance counselor, regular and special education teachers, the gifted education resource teacher, and the district gifted education coordinator. The committee engages in on-going screening of the student population, and students are added to the program as a need for services is documented. Parents are welcome to nominate their children for consideration by completing a nomination form available from the guidance counselor or at our website.

Parent permission for placement in the Talent Pool is required. Parents may withdraw permission at any time by filing a written request using forms provided by the school.

Parents who disagree with the finding of the Primary Talent Pool Placement Committee may appeal for reconsideration by filing a written request with the Gifted Education

Coordinator. Additional assessment of the child's strengths and weaknesses will be required.

Service delivery options used depend upon the student's needs. Options include such things as:

- Differentiated experiences within the regular classroom
- Cluster groups within the regular classroom
- Seminars and pullouts
- Curriculum compacting/acceleration by subject
- Collaborative teaching and consultation services
- Distance learning
- Independent study
- Mentorships
- Special counseling services
- Early exit from the Primary program

As the Primary Talent Pool is a service of the gifted education program, we must emphasize that being identified as having "high potential" does not mean that a child qualifies as "gifted." Under state regulations, identification of children as gifted does not occur until entrance into the Fourth Grade and beyond and requires use of formal assessment tools. Students in the Talent Pool are not automatically admitted to the gifted program. Gifted students typically represent only about five percent of the total student population whereas Talent Pool students represent about twenty-five percent.

For further information or answers to questions, contact Cathy Estep guidance counselor, at 573-8715, or Jennifer Parsons, Gifted Education Coordinator, at 573-8700.