

PROCEDURES FOR HIGH-ABILITY SERVICES 2020-2021

[Purpose of Services](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

[Operational Definitions](#)

[Gifted and High Ability](#)

[High Ability](#)

[Twice-exceptional](#)

[Assessment](#)

[Course Options](#)

[Service Delivery](#)

[Services](#)

[Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

[Processes and Procedures](#)

[Early Entrance into Kindergarten](#)

[Secondary Identification Process](#)

[Full or Partial Grade Acceleration](#)

[Move-in Students](#)

[Communication](#)

[Exit from Services](#)

[References and Resources](#)

Purpose of Services

The purpose of the high-ability education services in Batavia Public Schools, District #101, is to challenge and motivate academically advanced learners and engage them in appropriately differentiated learning experiences to develop their unique abilities regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, disability or socioeconomic status.

Mission Statement

Batavia Public Schools services for high-ability students support the whole child, academically, socially, and emotionally. Personalized and flexible services include appropriate rigor and result in student engagement that fosters continuous growth and learning.

Core Values

- A culture that embraces a growth-mindset and allows for productive struggle is an essential component of the learning process.
- A supportive environment teaches communication, collaboration, and perseverance, fosters creative problem-solving, and sparks curiosity.
- All students are individuals with unique needs and thrive in an environment that recognizes and responds to their academic, social, and emotional needs.
- Student self-efficacy and advocacy are fundamental skills that must be developed and supported through the learning process.
- Purposeful assessments support the growth of students through high-quality feedback, self-reflection, and student ownership of the learning process.
- Collaboration and two-way communication are essential to the success of the learning community and is inclusive of parents, teachers, students, and the community.

Operational Definitions

Gifted and Talented

There are many ways that giftedness or the label of “gifted” have been defined. The State of Illinois defines gifted as “...children and youth with outstanding talent who perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other children and youth of their age, experience, and environment. A child shall be considered gifted and talented in any area of aptitude, and, specifically, in language arts and mathematics, by performing in the top 5% locally in that area of aptitude.” (105 ILCS 5/14A-20105 ILCS 5/14A-20).

With a variation on the State definition, the Federal Government defines gifted students as “...students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in such areas as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities” ((No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 (Title IX, Part A, Definition 22) (2002); 20 USC 7801(22) (2004)).

In addition to governmental definitions of giftedness, advocacy groups also contribute to the range of definitions. The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) defines gifted and talented students as “...those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more domains. Domains include any structured area of activity with its own symbol system (e.g., mathematics, music, language) and/or set of sensorimotor skills (e.g., painting, dance, sports)” (nagc.org).

Instead of focusing on a percentage or label, Batavia Public Schools has moved to using the term high-ability and recognizing the broader spectrum of talents within the local population. This is not to say that students are not gifted, by any definition, but that BPS is using the more inclusive term, high-ability. This term is inclusive of gifted and talented students.

High Ability

High-ability “...occurs when there is an interaction among three basic clusters of human traits: above-average general and/or specific abilities, high levels of task commitment

(motivation), and high levels of creativity.” High ability students develop these traits and behaviors given the right set of circumstances, choices, and opportunities.

(Renzulli, J. S. (1978). What makes giftedness? Re-examining a definition. Phi Delta Kappa, 60, 180-181.)

Twice-exceptional (2E)

Twice-exceptional learners are students who have evidence of the potential for high achievement capability in areas such as specific academics; general intellectual ability; creativity; leadership; and/or visual, spatial, or performing arts AND also have evidence of one or more disabilities as defined by federal or state eligibility criteria such as specific learning disabilities; speech and language disorders; emotional/behavioral disorders; physical disabilities; autism spectrum; or other health impairments, such as ADHD. (NAGC definition)

Assessment

The goal of all assessment is to gather information for and about the learning process. For more information about the assessment program in Batavia Public Schools, see [Board Policy 6:340](#)

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

Summative

Assessments that provide evidence of student achievement for the purpose of making judgements about student competence or program effectiveness (Chappuis, 2015)

Remediation

Remediation should not be confused with “remedial.” Remediation is a grading practice that allows students to demonstrate mastery of skills with a time variable, meaning the ability for students to demonstrate their mastery of skills or content after additional practice or revision. Remediation practices vary by level and content area, but the practices may include providing optional learning opportunities and ways to show mastery of the content. Example: Student A may

need more time and practice to master and practice a skill beyond when the rest of the class has taken an assessment.

Course Options

Honors

A course option at the high school and middle school levels. Honors courses use a locally developed curriculum to meet the needs of high-ability students .

Advanced Placement

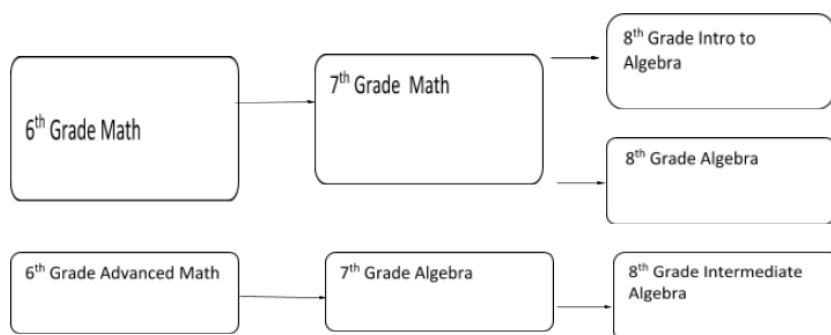
The College Board has developed course expectations and curriculum for high school level courses that provide students with a high level of rigor aligned to post-secondary standards. The College Board audits and controls the curriculum of these courses. See the high school course catalog for more information.

Dual Credit

Dual credit courses are community college level courses that can be accessed for both high school and community college credit. The curriculum and instructor requirements are determined by Waubonsee Community College.

Math Levels

Middle School



High School

At the high school level (9-12), there are two levels of mathematics as well. Traditional math classes are for on-grade-level math students, and Honors or Advanced Placement math classes are for those that need enrichment, faster pacing, and enrichment.

Service Delivery

Push-in

Push-in models service students within the regular classroom. This can take the form of co-teaching (see Co-teaching) or a guided group (see Guided group).

Pull-out

Pull-out models service students in separate classrooms on a daily or periodic basis (either all day or within a given time frame) with an official curriculum. This curriculum is a replacement for the materials used for almost all other students in the district at that grade level. Typically, the students in a pull-out program only interact with other high-ability students.

Differentiation

The idea of differentiating instruction to accommodate the different ways that students learn involves a hefty dose of common sense, as well as sturdy support in the theory and research of education (Tomlinson & Allan, 2000). It is an approach to teaching that advocates active planning for student differences in classrooms.

Co-teaching

Co-teaching is a collaboration between instructors to meet the learning needs of students. Often times a co-teaching strategy pairs a content area expert with a differentiation expert. This can be used as a service delivery model to meet the mandates of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) or to provide enrichment to students.

Guided Groups

Small-group, guided instruction is an instructional grouping model that facilitates differentiation. Grouped by skill level or academic needs, the teacher engages the students in small groups with targeted instruction.

Curriculum Compacting

Curriculum compacting is a strategy for differentiation where a teacher assesses students for mastery of the material and if demonstrated, moves on to more advanced concepts or skills or the teacher uses pacing to rapidly cover the core curriculum and therefore is able to move more quickly to more advanced material. This may allow students to learn material above their current grade level.

Pacing/Acceleration

A strategy of progressing through education at rates faster or ages younger than the norm. This can occur through grade skipping or subject acceleration (e.g., a fifth-grade student taking sixth-grade math).
(definition from NAGC)

Clustering

Cluster grouping is a service-based model. Unlike traditional pull-out programs, cluster grouping allows high ability students to learn at various levels of instruction within the regular classroom instead of participating in groups of instruction that are isolated from the rest of their peers. Instead of using a completely separate curriculum for instruction, classroom teachers and specialists look at the needs of these groups of students and determine how to provide curricular modifications that meet their academic needs. This means that high ability students will engage in activities that require more critical and creative thinking as well as participate in some small groups receiving differentiated instruction. This model also provides flexibility to adjust the curriculum as needed, providing enrichment that is timely and student-centered.

Enrichment

Enrichment is an instructional approach that extends a student's understanding of a topic or allows for the exploration of new topics through an assignment, project, or other instructional strategy provided by the regular classroom teacher or enrichment coach. Enrichment can take many forms. It may look like a report, a skit, the study of new genres, higher level reading on a similar topic, projects,

webquests, etc. It can also include formal programs such as Destination Imagination, Robotics, or academic competitions such as Battle of the Books, science fairs, or spelling bees. This work is often done in addition to, and not instead of, any regular school work assigned.

Service Delivery Descriptions

Primary Elementary (K-3)

Formal high-ability services in core subject areas are not offered in Batavia Public Schools until grade 4. During these early grades, classroom teachers provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of students.

Our curriculum is specifically designed for all students in grades K – 3 to build critical and creative thinking skills instruction. Differentiation may happen as a regular part of small group instruction or may happen during the W.I.N. time during a students day where they should receive “What I Need” programming.

Intermediate Elementary (grades 4-5)

Identification

Primary Identification Process

During the third grade year, our high-ability teachers will work in small groups with all third grade students. This allows us to identify students who may not meet traditional qualification criteria but would benefit from being included in high-ability services, specifically math. In the winter of third grade, the district begins the primary identification process for formal high ability services in third grade. Using the Northwest Evaluation Association ([NWEA](#)) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment, the District identifies those students who have consistently scored at or above the 95th percentile in math, reading, and in both subject areas for services in fourth grade.

Secondary Identification Process

The District’s primary identification process is a mass screening of students who fit the profile of students who may benefit from high-ability services. This process is based on achievement test results and may not identify all students who would benefit from services. To this end, a secondary identification process can be initiated by parents and/or teachers. This process is more individualized and can use additional achievement, ability, and/or aptitude tests as information for

decision-making. Contact the high-ability teacher at the school to begin the process. Please note that all decisions are final and not appealable outside the building level.

Services

Grade 4 & 5 Services

Clustering

Students identified as high-ability in reading, math or math and reading, will be grouped into a grade-level classroom. This allows for differentiation, a peer group, and for targeted professional development for staff working with this group of students. The other members of the classroom will be a heterogeneous group of students.

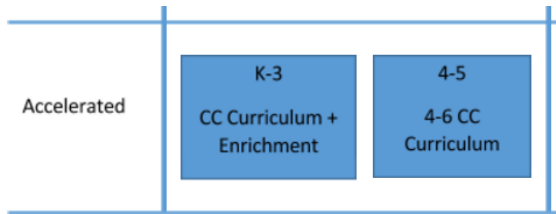
Enrichment Reading

Students identified as high-ability in reading will be provided guided, differentiated reading instruction as a part of their core instruction. Classroom teachers will use Jr. Great Books and/or Jacob's Ladder among other resources to enrich the experience of students.

The enrichment coach will support the classroom teacher and may also use push-in or pull-out instruction to augment core instruction and enrichment.

Enrichment Math

Students identified as high-ability in math will be provided curriculum compacting starting in 4th grade. Delivered by the enrichment coach, students will complete 4th and 5th grade math concepts. Successful students would complete 6th grade standards during his/her 5th grade year. At the middle school level level, students would be in Advanced Math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Intermediate Algebra).



Grade 5 Services

Identification

Students who successfully complete work in the 4th grade service model, will continue to receive enrichment services in 5th grade. Additional students may be identified through parent or teacher initiation of the secondary identification process or through school level monitoring of student progress.

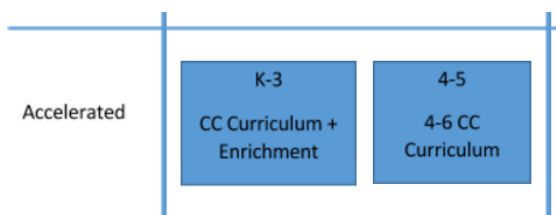
Enrichment Reading

Students identified as high-ability in reading will be provided guided, differentiated reading instruction as a part of their core instruction. Classroom teachers will use Jr. Great Books and/or Jacob's Ladder among other resources to enrich the experience of students.

The enrichment coach will support the classroom teacher and may also use push-in or pull-out instruction to augment core instruction and enrichment.

Enrichment Math

Students will receive curriculum compacting in mathematics. Delivered by the enrichment coach, students will complete 5th and 6th grade math concepts. Students completing this curriculum as 5th graders will be placed in Advanced Math in 6th grade and follow the sequence of Algebra in 7th grade and Intermediate Algebra in 8th grade.



Middle School

General Description

Identified high-ability students in grades six through eight may participate in advanced math classes and honors English Language Arts (ELA) courses in addition to exploratory and co-curricular opportunities that can enrich their experiences in the core content areas. See the [Rotolo Middle School Course Book](#) for course descriptions and additional information.

Honors ELA

Honors ELA sections are available in grades 6, 7 and 8. Initial 6th grade placement is made using NWEA MAP reading assessment scores. Incoming 6th graders would be placed in the Honors ELA section if they score consistently at or above the 90th percentile as determined by examining the last 5 administrations.

Math

There are two levels of math at 6th grade and at 7th grade. In 8th grade, there are three levels to target high school readiness.

Middle School Appeals for ELA and Math Placement

Placement appeals should be made directly to the school site. Placement appeals may include a placement test. Contact information for appeals will be sent with the placement information. Please note that all decisions are final and not appealable outside the building level.

7th and 8th grade Services

Students would follow their 6th grade sequence in math and/or ELA unless a parent/teacher initiates the secondary identification process or the District exits a student from services.

High School

The high school provides a variety of [honors and AP courses](#) available to students who wish to participate. See the [Course Catalog](#) and the [BHS website](#) for information on the Advanced Placement and honors offerings.

Freshmen Course Placement and Appeals

[Freshmen course placements](#) are determined by considering the following factors: College readiness skill-level as indicated by your child's score ranges on MAP tests, current 8th grade course placements, historical data trends and 8th grade teacher review of recommended placements.

Please see [Incoming Freshmen](#) for additional information.

Processes and Procedures

[Early Entrance into Kindergarten](#)

[Secondary Identification Process](#)

[Full or Partial Grade Acceleration](#)

[Move-in Students](#)

[Communication](#)

[Exit from Services](#)

Early Entrance for Kindergarten

7:50-E3 - Early Entrance for Kindergarten Parent Information

According to Board of Education policy 7:50, the district recognizes that there are some children whose fifth birthday occurs after the September 1 cutoff who exhibit kindergarten readiness. Any student who turns five between September 2 and December 31, and whose parent believes is ready for kindergarten, will be allowed to petition for early admission.

- To provide evidence of your child's age, you will be asked to provide a copy of the birth certificate.
- To evaluate your child's readiness for kindergarten, we will ask that you bring your child to your elementary school to be assessed. The assessment will evaluate your child in the following areas:
 - Oral Language
 - Reading Readiness
 - Math Readiness
 - Visual and Auditory Memory
 - Fine and Gross Motor
 - Social Maturity

If your child attends preschool, we will also send one of our kindergarten teachers to your child's school to observe him/her in academic and social settings. Our teacher will

also interview your child's preschool teacher. We ask that you provide a fee of \$50 to cover the cost of this observation.

A school team consisting of the principal, school psychologist, and kindergarten teacher will review the data collected and compare your child's performance to state and local norms.

We in District 101 believe that a child's social readiness is just as important as academic readiness. Therefore, these two aspects will be weighted equally. Once a determination has been made, the principal will contact you with the team's decision.

Secondary Identification Process--Elementary Only

The District's primary identification process is a mass screening of students who fit the profile of students who benefit from high-ability services. This process is based on achievement test results and may not identify all students who would benefit from services.

To this end, a secondary identification process can be initiated by parents and/or teachers. This process is more individualized and can use additional achievement, ability, and/or aptitude tests as information for decision-making. See the process and forms below if you would like to use this process.

Step 1: Referral

A teacher, parent, or other staff member may refer a child for high ability services. Complete the [referral](#) and return it to your building principal or designee.

Step 2: Process

Once a referral is received, a team will be assembled to determine the student's needs. Minimally, the enrichment coach, principal or designee and parents/guardians will be involved in the process. Additional school staff could also play a role in the process.

Step 3: Data Review

The team will review what current data is known about the child that might be helpful in the process. This may include any additional information the parents have about their child.

If additional data is needed, the team will determine what assessments or information is needed. This may include the following:

Parent or Teacher Rating Scales--*Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS)*

CogAT (at or above grade level)

Classroom Observation/Assessments

Other assessments

Step 4: Solution generation

Based on the student data, potential solutions should be discussed at a team meeting. The key questions are the following:

- What does this data say about the child?
- What would best meet the needs of the child?

The team may decide to gather further information about the child by piloting enrichment activities or alternative placements and assessing the child's response.

Step 5: Implementation

The solution that best meets the child's needs should be developed into an action plan that has follow ups and checks to be sure the plan is having the intended impact on the child.

*Please note that all decisions are final and not appealable outside the building level.

Full or Partial Grade Acceleration

While not a systems practice in Batavia Public Schools, acceleration may meet the academic needs of a student. Acceleration can be whole grade or subject specific acceleration. The process for determining if acceleration is an appropriate step is a team process, involving the classroom teacher, parents, specialists, other staff, and the child.

Step 1: Referral

A teacher, parent, or other staff member may refer a child for acceleration consideration.

Step 2: Process

The team should decide on a process to be used to make the decision. BPS101 recommends the use of the Iowa Acceleration Scale process for making the

determination. However, we recognize that this process may need modification, especially for Twice-exceptional (2E) students.

Step 3: Data Collection

Multiple data points should be collected about the child. Data may include, but is not limited to the following:

Data to Collect
CogAT/WISC
MAP (2 data pts.)
End of year tests
Benchmark Test
Classroom data

Step 4: Solution generation

Based on the student data, potential solutions should be discussed at a team meeting. The key questions are the following:

- What does this data say about the child?
- What would best meet the needs of the child?

The team should consider the following when discussing the potential solutions:

Considerations

- Age of Student
- Behavioral Analysis
- Testing Background

Step 5: Implementation

The solution that best meets the child's needs should be developed into an action plan that has follow ups and checks to be sure the plan is having the intended impact on the child.

*Please note that all decisions are final and not appealable outside the building level.

Move-in Students

Throughout the year, students may move into the district. Students who have participated in gifted programs or services at their previous school district are encouraged to have all data sent to their new school from the previous school district. This data might include CogAT tests, Iowa tests, IQ tests or ability tests. The previous

district should also send any available academic tests, as well. School secretaries can help submit requests for school records.

Students newly-enrolled in Batavia Public Schools can be considered for placement upon formally enrolling in the district. Problem-solving teams in the student's new school would help determine which services will best meet student needs. If needed, students may be administered additional assessments.

Should the student not have any formal testing and testing is requested, students can be referred by the classroom teacher, enrichment coach, administrator or parent for consideration using the problem-solving process.

Communication

Contact Information

Elementary

Principals are the instructional leaders of their schools. Contact information for each principal can be found on the school's [website](#). Principals share instructional leadership with key staff. For high ability students, you may want to contact the enrichment coach assigned to your child's school site.

Alex Piron – AGS and HCS

alexandra.piron@bps101.net

Sue Palombella – GMS and LWS

susan.palombella@bps101.net

Julie Brach – JBN and HWS

julie.brach@bps101.net

Middle School (grade 6-8)

Carol Dopke-RMS Associate Principal

carol.dopke@bps101.net

High School (grade 9-12)

Bob Dietz- BHS Associate Principal

bob.dietz@bps101.net

Exit from Services

Students who are receiving services at any level may need to be exited from the services due to a variety of factors including social/emotional or changes in academic performance. The following process may be initiated by the teacher, principal, enrichment coach, counselor, parent, or student:

1. Conference with teacher, parent and student
2. Student will be given a predetermined time to remediate or with parent permission may discontinue the services.
3. Conference again with teacher/parent/student/principal or counselor to discuss progress.
4. Removal from services will occur if placement is deemed inappropriate due to lack of ability, progress, or emotional concerns.

If the student is struggling, it is assumed that regular communication has occurred between teacher/enrichment coach and parent before the initial conference takes place.

Batavia District #101 reserves the right to determine the best placement and programming for each of its students.

References and Resources

[Iowa Acceleration Scale](#)

[Junior Great Books](#)

[American Research Company Labs](#)

[Jacob's Ladder](#)

[Elementary Cluster Teachers](#)

[Enrichment Coaches](#)

[Collaboration Station](#)

Iowa Acceleration Scale

The *Iowa Acceleration Scale, 4th Edition* is a tool to help schools make effective decisions regarding a grade-skip. The *IAS* guides a child study team (including educators, teachers, parents, and other professionals) through a discussion of the academic and social characteristics of the student.

The *IAS* provides:

- A more objective look at the student;
- An analysis of the major factors to be considered in making a decision;
- Guidelines for weighting the relative importance of the major factors;
- Documentation of the student's strengths and concerns
- A numerical range to guide the discussion and decision of acceleration; and
- A standard of comparison with students who have had successful accelerations.

Junior Great Books

Junior Great Books is a strong, inquiry-based language arts program that refines and extends students' skills in reading, thinking, and communicating. The program is a model of student-centered learning in which students work with complex ideas and rigorous texts. The program uses well-crafted, multicultural reading selections that are rich in ideas and invite a number of interpretations. Through consistent use of the program students develop their reading and thinking skills by asking questions, formulating and sharing their opinions, and supporting their ideas with evidence from the selections.

American Reading Company Research Labs and Genre Studies

American Reading Company Research Labs will be used to extend and deepen high ability students' knowledge base. These units involve student-selected research inquiries that encourage students to study a topic deeply. Students will also be expected to read widely across genres to have a better understanding of author's craft and genre characteristics.

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder targets reading comprehension skills in high ability learners. In the form of three skill ladders connected to individual readings in poetry, myths/fables, and nonfiction, students move from lower order, concrete thinking skills to higher order, critical thinking skills.

Elementary Cluster Teacher

To meet the needs of high ability students in grades 3, 4, and 5, one or more cluster teachers will be designated at each school site. Determination will be made by the school principal.

Responsibilities for elementary cluster teachers include the following:

- Attend professional development on meeting the needs of high-ability students
- Use the district provided enrichment modules and materials
- Collaborate with the building enrichment coach
- Provide feedback to the District about services and programs
- Participate in District articulation opportunities for cluster teachers
- Provide core instruction to cluster students

High-Ability Teacher

To meet the needs of high ability students in grades 3, 4, and 5, an enrichment coach will support teachers and students.

Enrichment Coaches work directly with students in push-in or pull-out instruction delivery. In addition, the enrichment coach supports school staff in meeting the needs of high-ability students. The needs of students will be a contributing factor in how services are delivered in each school site.

Collaboration Stations

Collaboration Stations are networked video conferencing carts that are available to staff and students in all BPS101 schools. To have the opportunity for daily instruction, this technology may be used during instruction, especially for 4th and 5th grade compacted math.



