

Norfolk Public Schools

HAL Statement of Purpose

NPS provides a program for High Ability Learners (HAL) in compliance with Nebraska Department of Education Rule 3, Regulations Governing High Ability Learners. Furthermore, NPS applies the 2019 Gifted Programming Standards of the National Association for Gifted Children within its HAL Program.

Our mission is to identify, support, and respect the learner who gives evidence of exceptional intellectual, academic, creative, or artistic capacity. We strive to meet the social-emotional needs of high ability learners.

NPS provides opportunities of educational excellence for learners with high ability. Facilitators of students with gifts and talents foster academic achievement while providing safe learning environments that promote emotional well-being, leadership development, creativity, positive social interaction, and practical educational services. Students are identified for the gifted program using multiple criteria including standardized tests scores, sustained outstanding performance, teacher and parent referral, and behavioral inventories. We may provide enrichment, accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs.

How does a student Qualify for HAL?

- Step 1 - All students are screened through the Measures of Academics Progress Test during the Fall and Winter Testing session. Students with scores of 92nd percentile or greater in two content areas would Qualify for HAL services.**
- Step 2 - Students with one score of 92nd percentile and a second score between 85th and 91st percentile will be able to take the CogAt test to gather further information.**
- Step 3 - Teacher and/or Parent Recommendations will be used to determine if the CogAt Test should be administered.**
- Step 4 - CogAt scores in the 90th percentile in two areas of the test will qualify the student for the HAL program.**

Students that enter the HAL program in Elementary will requalify during their 4th grade year using the same process to enter Norfolk Middle School as a HAL student. Students that do not qualify using this criteria will not be in the HAL program at the Norfolk Middle School.

Students new to our district who appear to be academically or intellectually exceptional, but who have no scores on record here, and students who are achieving high scores for the first time may be added to the program at any time regardless of where we are in the cycle.