

Highly Capable Program Basic Education in Washington State

Alternative Learning Experience

Non-resident students, enrolled part or full time, who attend school through the [Alternative Learning Experience](#) (ALE) program are eligible for HCP consideration. District policy and procedures must include provisions for the consideration of online, remote and site-based ALE students. Districts should address services for identified ALE students through the student learning plan.

A Variety of Services from Kindergarten Through Grade 12

These two references from the [Washington Administrative Code](#) (WAC) speak directly to the need to address individual learning needs and provide these educational services from kindergarten through grade 12.

[WAC 392-170-080](#) — *Educational Program for Highly Capable Students*

Each student identified as a highly capable student shall be provided educational opportunities which take into account such student's unique needs and capabilities. Such program shall recognize the limits of the resources provided by the state and the program options available to the district, including programs in adjoining districts and public institutions of higher education. Districts shall keep on file a description of the educational programs provided for students selected.

[WAC 392-170-078](#) — *Program Services*

Each district shall make a variety of appropriate program services available to students who participate in the district's program for highly capable students. Once services are started, a continuum of services shall be provided to the student from K–12. Districts shall periodically review services for each student to ensure that the services are appropriate.

State law allows districts to include ALE programming within the *variety of services* available to HCP students.

ALE Student Learning Plan

Given that educators design ALE courses to meet individual student needs, a district may create an ALE student learning plan that addresses the unique needs of a highly capable learner. Access to courses at a higher grade level or the inclusion of differentiated instructional materials are two among many other options.

HCP Reports — Annual Plan and End-of-Year Report

Districts must submit an annual plan and end-of-year report to OSPI every year. District plans and reporting should address ALE students and services as they pertain to the district HCP. OSPI approval is mandatory and makes sure that a district's highly capable program meets the requirements of the WACs that make up [WAC 393-170](#) — *Special Service Program—Highly Capable Students*.

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Background: Highly Capable Program Funded Through Basic Education Allocation

State law regards highly capable programming as one element of the basic education provided to identified students. The Legislature codified this program of accelerated learning and enhanced instruction here in [Chapter 28A.185 RCW](#) — *Highly Capable Students*.

[RCW 28A.150.220](#)(3)(g) — *Basic education—Minimum instructional requirements — Program accessibility — Rules*.

As enacted by the Legislature, includes as a minimum instructional requirement that “the instructional program of basic education provided by each school district shall include: programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010 through 28A.185.030.

- [28A.185.010](#) — *Program—Duties of superintendent of public instruction*
- [28A.185.020](#) — *Funding*
- [28A.185.030](#) — *Programs—Authority of local school districts—Selection of students*

District school boards and superintendents are responsible for the design and implementation of a program that meets the HCP requirements detailed in [WAC 392-170](#).

- Programs for highly capable students must extend from kindergarten through grade 12.
- Districts have the authority to develop unique identification policies, procedures and service options for HCP students. These policies, procedures and service options must meet the requirements of [WAC 392-170](#).