

Philosophy

The Ashland School District is committed to identifying and providing for the unique intellectual, social, emotional, and career needs of intellectually gifted and academically talented children in grades K – 12.

It is our goal to ensure that all learners, including gifted learners, are provided stimulating, challenging and meaningful educational experiences with lessons and materials appropriate for each student's assessed level and rate of learning.

Our philosophy fosters educational alternatives in a broader social context promoting:

- High expectations and achievement
- Intellectual stimulation and collaboration
- Academic enrichment
- Social and emotional growth

We acknowledge and support the vital role of the classroom teacher in creating differentiated instruction for the unique needs of exceptional learners within the classroom setting.

Identification

Ashland identifies students in kindergarten through grade 12 as eligible for TAG services in three areas:

- Academically Talented in Reading
- Academically Talented in Math
- Intellectually Gifted

To identify students, we use a variety of data including nationally normed individual or group tests, classroom observations and work samples, and parent, teacher and student surveys.

We use statewide assessments to screen all students for potential consideration as academically talented.

Additionally and with parental permission, we administer an individual assessment of cognitive ability based on request.

If a student shows promise, he or she may go through a screening process with you, the teacher and the school's Child Study Team to determine eligibility.

Parents, teachers and students can refer for consideration in the screening process.

Services

Once a student has been identified, the district has an obligation to assess the student's rate and level of learning and offer a program that allows him or her appropriate academic challenge.



Elementary Services

Elementary students eligible for TAG services have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) designed by their classroom teacher with input from parents, other district resource staff and the student.

The plan identifies the student's current rate and level of learning in all academic areas and instructional strategies to help them reach their potential.

- Early Entrance
- Independent Study
- Thematic And/Or Integrated Curriculum
- Acceleration Of Existing Curriculum
- Cluster Grouping/ Small Group
- Advanced Materials
- Assignment Modification/Differentiation
- Multi-Age Classes
- Cross-Grade Grouping

- Product Modifications
- Interest Grouping
- Student Selected Study
- Higher Level Thinking Skills
- Enrichment
- Regular Classroom Work
- Other based on the site



Middle School

Each teacher at the middle school creates an annual FLEX plan to address the needs of students who require accelerated rates and levels of learning. If a student, teacher or parent feels that an individual plan (PEP) is appropriate, they may request one. Contact the building TAG administrator.

TAG services are built upon options already existing within the middle school. The services and aspects of Ashland Middle School that support TAG students include:

Classroom Strategies

- Differentiated Instruction
- Mastery Level Assessment Criteria
- Cluster Grouping
- Cross Graded Instruction
- Thematic and Integrated Curriculum
- Independent Study Projects
- Advanced Math Placement
- Advanced Spanish Placement

Enrichment

- Brain Bowl
- Math Team
- Individual Needs Classes
- Scavenger Hunt Competition
- Competitive Speech
- Advanced Video Production
- Student Yearbook
- Literature Club
- Student Leadership
- Science Team
- Chess Team

High School

Each teacher at the high school creates an annual FLEX plan to address the needs of students who require accelerated rates and levels of learning. If a student, teacher or parent feels that an individual plan (PEP) is appropriate, they may request one. Contact the building TAG administrator.



TAG services are built upon options already existing within the high school. The services and aspects of Ashland High School that support TAG students include:

- Self-Selected Scheduling
- Comprehensive High School
- Wide Variety Of Classes Including Many Upper Level (College Prep) Offerings
- Advanced Placement Classes (Such As Literature, Composition, U.S. History, Government, Chemistry, Calculus)
- Access To Advanced Placement Tests For Courses Not Available At AHS
- Independent Study
- Access To Southern Oregon University Classes (11th, 12th Grade)
- Access To Mentorships/Internships
- Technical Certifications
- Academic Competitions (Math Team, Science Team, Brain Bowl, Model U.N., Etc.)
- Southern Oregon On-Line School Classes
- Access To Correspondence Courses
- Early Graduation
- 2 + 2 College Credits Through Rogue Community College
- National Honor Society

Broad Screening and Individual Referrals

The district conducts a **broad screen cognitive** ability assessment at elementary school. The district also uses district and state achievement tests to **broad screen for academically talented** in reading and math K – 12.

Parents, teachers and students may make individual referrals outside of the broad screen process.

Ability test dates are set by the sites twice each year in November/December and February/March windows. Students referred for individual cognitive assessment will be evaluated during the next available window. Check with your school for dates and start the referral process early.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where can I find more information on resources for my child?

A good place to start is with your student's teacher or the building TAG coordinator. An additional starting point is the Oregon Department of Education website: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/>

What if I disagree with a committee's decision? There is a formal appeals process available in the district. You may contact your building TAG coordinator, Principal or the District TAG Coordinator for additional information on starting the process.

What if we moved from another state?

Eligibility requirements in other states may not be the same as Oregon's requirements. Ask your school's Child Study Team to review the eligibility from your child's last district to see if your child is eligible for services in Ashland.

Other Questions?

Ask to speak with the TAG coordinator at your child's school or you may contact Student Services at 541-482-2438.

Last Revised July 2018

Ashland School District



Talented and Gifted Services

If you have questions, please contact:

