Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools
High Ability Identification Process

Students in Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools are identified for high ability programming using data from measures of potential and achievement. This data is utilized to indicate which students qualify to receive services to enrich or accelerate their acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Kindergarten

All students in kindergarten will participate in the *Cognitive Abilities Test* (CogAT) as a universal screening for potential. A student will automatically qualify as high ability when he or she earns a score in the 96th percentile or above in language arts and/or math. A student must earn scores in the 96th percentile or above in both language arts and math to be identified as high ability in the area of general intellect.

For kindergarten students who earn a score in the 85th-95th percentile on CogAT, Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools will use normative data from the IOWA assessment to identify high academic achievement. Kindergarten students who achieve in the 98th percentile or higher on the math and/or language arts sections of IOWA will qualify as students with high abilities.

Second Grade

All students in 2nd grade will participate in the *Cognitive Abilities Test* (CogAT) as a universal screening for potential. A student will automatically qualify as high ability when he or she earns a score in the 96th percentile or above in language arts and/or math. A student must earn scores in the 96th percentile or above in both language arts and math to be identified as high ability in the area of general intellect.

For 2nd grade students who earn a score in the 85th-95th percentile on CogAT, Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools will use normative data from the IOWA assessment to identify high academic achievement. 2nd grade students who achieve in the 96th percentile or higher on the math and/or language arts sections of IOWA will qualify as students with high abilities.

Fifth Grade

All students in 5th grade will participate in the *Cognitive Abilities Test* (CogAT) as a universal screening for potential. A student will automatically qualify as high ability when he or she earns a score in the 96th percentile or above in language arts and/or math. A student must earn scores in the 96th percentile or above in both language arts and math to be identified as high ability in the area of general intellect.

For 5th grade students who earn a score in the 85th-95th percentile on CogAT, Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools will use normative data from the IOWA assessment to identify high academic achievement. 5th grade students who achieve in the 96th percentile or higher on the math and/or language arts sections of IOWA will qualify as students with high abilities.

Students who slightly miss the cut-off scores or who are English Language Learners may participate in a third path to qualify, which includes teacher rating scales and consideration of other testing and classroom data.

Middle and High School Students

Once the 5th grade identification is completed, students do not need to requalify for high ability services. Honors and Advance Placement (AP) classes are considered high ability services. IOWA results will continue to be monitored. If data suggest that students should be newly identified or exited from high ability services, parents will be notified by the High Ability Coordinator or Guidance Counselor.

Move-In Students from Other Districts

Students who move from other schools may have been identified using differing methods and cut-off scores than those used within Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools. This includes other schools in Indiana, as the state regulations allow for districts to determine their own procedures.

Students who move into Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools with high ability identification from another school corporation may submit testing data to be reviewed by the identification committee. If the data is sufficient, eligibility will be confirmed by the committee. If the data is not sufficient, the student will participate in the next round of testing with their grade-level peers.

Appeals Process

Universal screening for high ability is utilized in Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools (IOWA is given to all K-10 students three times per year and CogAT given to all K, 2nd, and 5th grade students) and the data is reviewed annually, eliminating the need for parent requests or teacher referrals for high ability identification.

If a parent or teacher has evidence that supports off-level testing (i.e., CogAT administration in 1st, 3rd, or 4th grades), this evidence will be considered by the Identification Team. Grades and ILEARN results alone will not be considered sufficient evidence, as both demonstrate performance at grade level.

To request additional testing or pursue an appeal, parents and/or guardians must submit evidence and a cover letter stating the rationale for the request to the High Ability Coordinator for review by the Identification Team. Parents and/or guardians that do not agree with a high ability placement decision will have 10 school days after the placement notification date to file a formal appeal. The district appeal form must be filled out completely and returned to the High Ability Coordinator. If there is additional information that could support the appeal, it should be submitted with the district appeal as well. The High Ability Coordinator will contact the parents and/or guardians to schedule a meeting to discuss the findings of the appeal.