

Washington Coalition for Gifted Education

Advocating for policy and legislation that supports the needs of highly capable students and advances equity within gifted education, by partnering with parents, educators, policy makers, influencers, and other allies for over 40 years.



2009 ESHB 2261

Defined highly capable program as basic education

- The legislature finds that, for highly capable students, access to **accelerated learning** and **enhanced instruction** is access to a basic education.



2017 EHB 2242

First steps toward equitable identification

- Prioritize the equitable identification of **low-income students**
- Funding formula nearly **doubled** from 2.314% to 5% to support equitable identification



2018 E2SSB 6362

Established equitable identification procedures

- Use **multiple objective criteria** to identify students
- Have **multiple pathways** for qualifications
- **No single criterion may disqualify** a student
- Criteria benchmarked on **local norms**, but local norms may not be used as a more restrictive criteria than national norms at the same percentile
- **Subjective measures may NOT be used to screen out a student**
(i.e. teacher recommendations, report cards)



2023 SSB 5072

Mandated universal screening and other equitable practices

- Universal screening **in or before 2nd grade, and again in or before 6th grade**
- Consider at least **two student data points** during universal screening
- **Referrals** available for all grade levels not being universally screened
- Assessments occur **during the school day** and in the home school
- OSPI **annual report** on equitable identification of highly capable students
- Districts must seek to **expand access** to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction at elementary and secondary schools and **advance equitable enrollment practices**



Highly Capable Program Funding

Funding formula set by law in the biennial budget

- The formula is based on **five percent** of each school district's enrollment
- **Does not intend to limit highly capable services to five percent of students**
- Districts may identify and serve **more than five percent** of students
- Highly capable students are **basic education students first**
- Use basic education funding **in addition to** highly capable funding
- **\$33,171,000** of 2024-2025 state funding

