

Advanced Learning Equity Initiatives

The Advanced Learning Office at Seattle Public Schools is currently implementing an array of approaches to increase access to Advanced Learning programs. The focus of these efforts is to enhance equitable access to underrepresented populations, most especially low income, ELL, and students of color. (*The Advanced Learning student population shows overrepresentation of Caucasian students and underrepresentation of Hispanic, African-American, Native American and PI students*).

The strategies we are currently employing and were used throughout SY 2016-17 include:

IDENTIFICATION

- Referral window expanded to May 15-Sept. 22
- 2nd grade “universal testing” using the CogAT screening form at 32 Title I elementary schools
 - Invitations for continued screening extended to 67 parents of students demonstrating high potential on the CogAT screening form in conjunction with achievement scores
 - Follow up testing completed at Title One students’ school sites during the school day
- Enhanced Scrutiny by The Multidisciplinary Selection Committee (MSC)
 - “Special consideration” in the eligibility process as noted in our Superintendent Procedures and practiced by the MSC
 - Individualized research for referred ELL students for characteristics such as rapid language acquisition
 - Collaboration with Rainier Scholars to identify eligible students who had applied to their program

PD and OUTREACH

- INVITATIONS to students based on teacher recommendations (new for SY 17-18)
- INVITATIONS to students based on high achievement scores recognized through “data mining” (new for SY 17-18)
- Differentiation workshops at the central office, as well as at satellite sites
- Website information and videos and disseminated to local and social media outlets
- Site visits and PowerPoint to Title One schools re identification and referral of students for AL services (esp. re Universal testing)
- Eligibility forms and first day packet announcement (translations in 9 languages)
- AL representation on the Equity and Race Advisory Committee (ERAC)
- AL representation on the Southeast Seattle Education Consortium (SESEC)
- Presentation and partnership with the Robinson Center at the UW Equity in Gifted Education Summit
- Presentations by SPS staff at WAETAG (Washington Association of Educators of Talented and Gifted)