

Highly Capable Program Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date of Meeting: November 13, 2020 | 3:30-5:00pm

Meeting called by: Roberta Kramer, Assistant Superintendent

Members Present: Pam Brantner, Susan Horstman, Grace Grow, Shelley Opgenorth, Carone Jones, Declan Keogh, Trisha Doumit, Paula Perron-Bates, Lani DeBuhr

Members Absent: Paula Perron-Bates, Tessa Powell

1. 2019-2020 Student Data

Roberta Kramer presented the available 2019-2020 student data. Due to COVID-19, the SBA assessments were not administered. This is the measure normally used to gauge Hicap student growth. This year the data is based off MAPS 2020 winter scores compared to MAPS 2020 fall screener for grades K-8 and 2020 2nd semester grades compared to 2021 1st term grades for grades 9-12.

Observations/Comments:

The majority of students maintained their academic scores and a small number scored lower than last year. This is to be expected with school being closed unexpectedly and students being taught in the Distance Learning model. Lani will notify principals of the few students who scored lower this fall or received lower grades. The principals can then reach out to students and families to determine if there are barriers or other factors that are contributing to the lower performance. *Note: Hicap students continue to be eligible for the program even if they do not meet growth or grade standards.*

2. 2020-2021 Highly Capable Program Plan

• Academic Growth/Goals for HiCap Students

Students' SBA assessment scores and grades will continue to be used to measure academic growth.

• Program Services

The district will continue to incorporate the following into the Highly Capable Program:

- Cluster Grouping
- Differentiation
- Projects
- Independent Study
- AP, CITH, RS
- Summer Enrichment

Recommendation:

Roberta recommended the Committee consider hiring a Hicap Specialist for the remainder of the year in addition to offering the above services. Currently, Grace Grow is the only staff member who is partially funded by Hicap funding (.2 FTE) and her focus is on professional development and the inequitable eligibility portion of the program. A specialist could be a support for students in class and ensure the Hicap materials are being utilized as intended. It could also provide an intentional, relational piece that would encourage and help direct Hicap students.

Observations/Comments:

- Would be a positive for teachers since the specialist would be helping to meet the academic needs of Hicap students in their class.
- Some Hicap students are struggling in class and it may be because all teaching and learning is being done online. It can be challenging for teachers to put a lot of time and energy into

these students if they aren't doing well. A specialist could help support the teachers in this endeavor.

- Can the budget support this? Yes, approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 is spent on sending Hicap students to gifted summer camps each year. Last year all summer camps were canceled due to Covid and it is expected they will not be offered this summer either. The money normally spent for camp registrations could be used to pay a specialist for the remainder of the year. The expected cost of a specialist is \$33,000.
- A specialist could use pods or small groups to teach Hicap students. The socialization for these students has been a real issue and some students are more isolated than others so it could be a positive thing not only academically but socially as well.
- A specialist could help students who are struggling with the online format and/or students who aren't engaging. All around it would be a positive thing and money well spent for this year.

Action: All committee members are in support of hiring a Hicap specialist for the remainder of the 2021 school year. Roberta will do more follow up and keep the committee updated.

- **Program Evaluation**

The district will continue to use the following measures to evaluate the program:

- SBA assessment scores
- Student grades
- MAPS growth data
- Program participation

- **Anticipated Expenditures**

The anticipated expenditures for the 2021 school year are;

- Professional development
- HiCap Specialist
- Staff stipends for parent reporting
- TOSA (.2 FTE) – professional development, equitable identification

3. Spring Referrals & Testing Updates

Spring referral testing was not completed last year because of Covid and the school closure. Referred students were cluster grouped this fall and were tested in October. Out of the students referred eight qualified for program based on their MAPS scores and OLSAT scores. Students who were very close to qualifying but didn't will be administered the creativity test. Schools have been notifying families of their student's scores over the last two weeks. The selection committee noted: some families chose to delay having their child tested since all testing was done in-person and some students need to be given the non-verbal OLSAT assessment due to a language barrier.

Observations/Comments:

- The district's goal has been to target a special population of students who have barriers. Grace looks at the MAPS data of all students, crosses it over with the targeted population of students and make referrals based on that data. Last spring six students from that special population group qualified and were referred for testing. Not all of these students came in to be tested and Grace is working on determining if it was due to a barrier or if it was the parent's choice.

Grace reported she is receiving positive feedback on identifying these students. The districts goal was to have 5% of Hicap students be from this population group and last year the percentage was 10%, which exceeded the goal. Grace is going to follow up on the academic performance of these students to see how they are doing this fall.

- Susan Hortsman recommended the district take a deeper look at how students qualify for the program and possibly make some changes. Roberta agreed and will look at the district policy to get information on the process set forth to do this. This information will be shared with the committee and included in the minutes once gathered.
- Declan Keough reported many colleges are more open to offering their college courses in high schools. This could be a good opportunity to diversify Hicap student opportunities at the high school if PHS were to offer more college courses. It would require work and Declan is unsure how departments would react to it but feels it is worth looking further into and would be willing to discuss this with his colleagues. The committee agreed and Roberta will set up a meeting for her, Declan and Grace to talk to Juston Pollestad further about this.

4. Highly Capable Program Parent Newsletter

The committee discussed the parent newsletter and made these recommendations:

- An annual newsletter is sufficient for families. It should give information that is interesting and helpful for parents such as: what the program involves, highlights regarding the uniqueness of gifted children and to clearly spell out what the program is and isn't as expectations can differ from family to family.
- It should be given out right before the first conference of the year and right before spring conferences. Parents normally have a lot of questions at conference time about the Hicap program and this could answer some of those ahead of time. Lani will draft a newsletter to be sent out sometime in January 2021.
- The newsletter should be diversified for elementary, middle school and high school students.

5. Virtual Parent and Family Engagement Event

Roberta reported over the past several months they have been having their best attendance at meetings and attributes it to meetings be conducted remotely. Doing meetings remotely maximizes the use of peoples' time and allows flexibility to attend. Because of this she recommended hosting a virtual Hicap Parent and Family event. All committee members agreed and discussed what to include in the event.

Recommendations were:

- Bring in an expert on gifted children to talk to families. Grace said if this is done it would need to be someone the district hasn't had speak before and that the topic is relevant and engaging.
- OSPI sent out a tip sheet on how to host a virtual family event successfully. Lani will forward this email onto committee members for ideas.

6. Miscellaneous

Roberta reported Hicap funds originally slated to pay for Hicap students to attend gifted summer camps last summer were used to purchase 16 Chromebooks for each school to be used for Hicap purposes. This was done because all summer camps were canceled due to Covid. The Chromebooks have been received by the district but have not been sent out to the schools yet.

4:40 pm – Roberta Kramer adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: December 3, 2020 | 3:30 – 5:00pm via Zoom



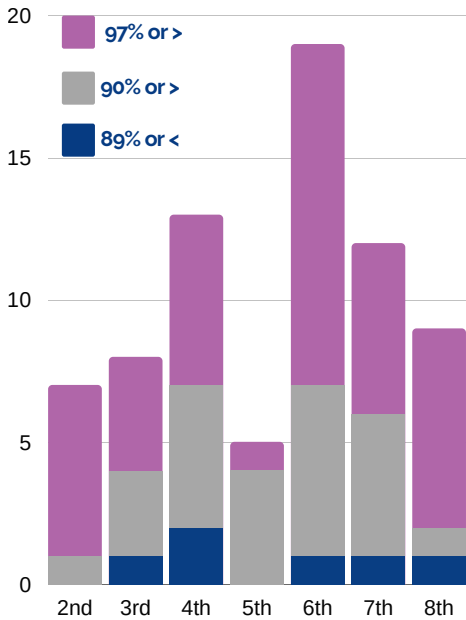
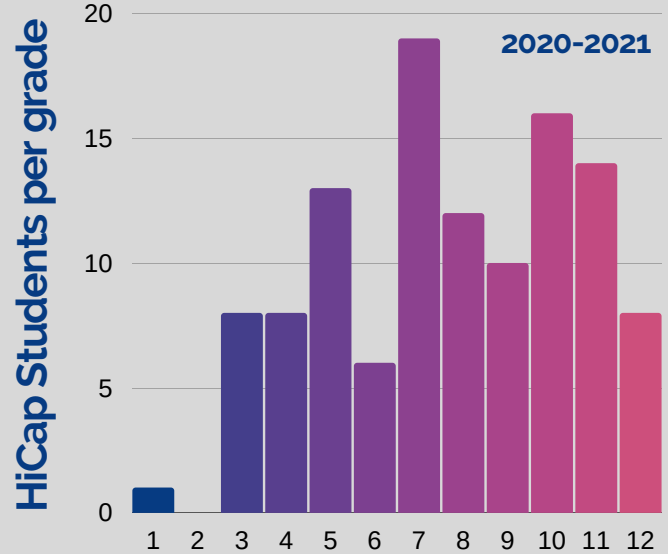
PULLMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Highly Capable Program Dashboard 2020-2021

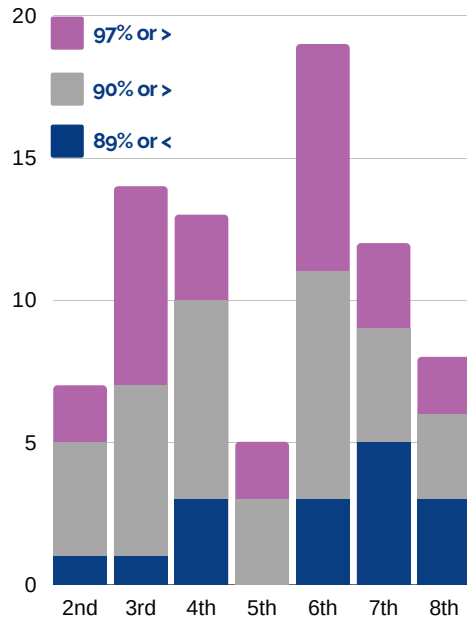
136 2019-20 HiCap Students



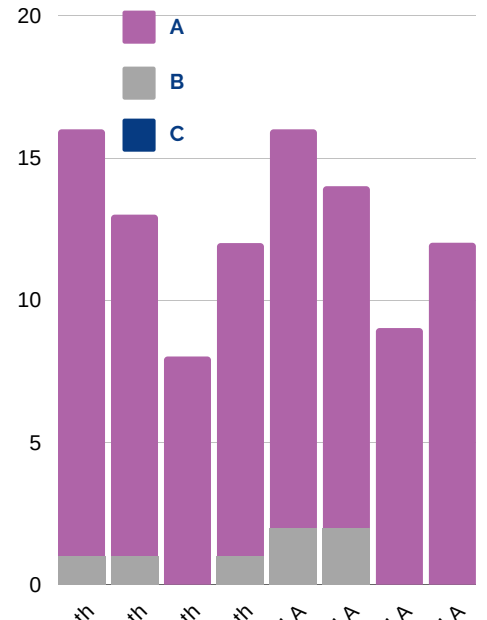
114 2020-21 HiCap Students



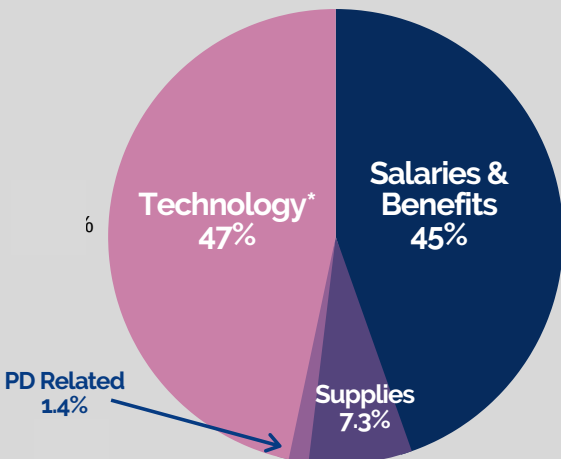
Winter 19-20 MAPS Math Scores by Grade



Winter 19-20 MAPS Reading Scores by Grade



19-20 2nd Semester Math & ELA Grades for High Schoolers



*84 Chromebooks purchased for HiCap use. (16 per school)

\$ 77,000
Budget

(2019-20 Figures)