

ALERT

Active Learning Experiences in Research and Thinking Nixa Public Schools' Program for the Academically Gifted

PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

STEP 1 Teachers, parents, and other interested people who are in a position to observe the daily behavior of children and would like to refer a child to the gifted program are asked to complete a checklist designed to identify children who display characteristics common to gifted students.

STEP 2 The records of all children identified in Step 1 are reviewed for information, including past tests and referrals that might indicate a child needs additional educational intervention. Counselors also review incoming records of students new to the district. For placement in ALERT, students must meet one of the following criteria:

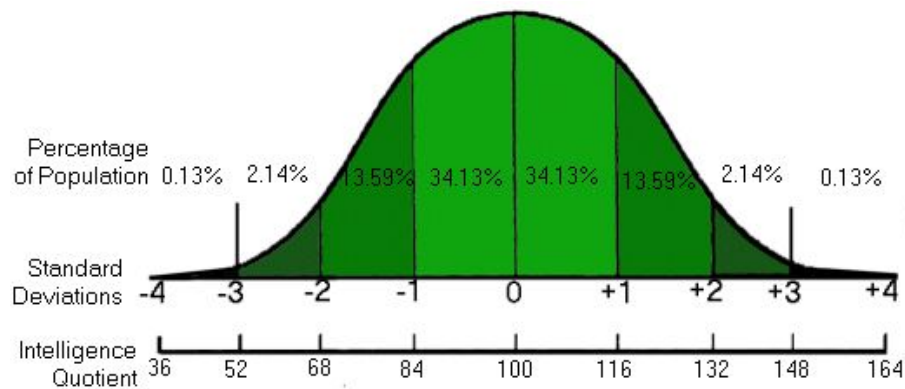
- ❑ Cognitive Abilities Test composite score is at or above the 90th percentile
- ❑ Score at or above the 90th percentile (normal sample), on two areas of the SAGES-2 (normal sample)

Students who have not taken appropriate tests may be given a norm-referenced achievement test, if needed.

STEP 3 The information from Steps 1 and 2 is used to make a prioritized list of students to be given an individual intelligence test. Parents will be informed of the testing situation, and asked to sign a consent form, before a school counselor administers the test.

STEP 4 Individual intelligence test results are reviewed by the Gifted Program Committee. To be placed in Nixa's gifted program, students must have either a Full Scale IQ score at or above the 97th percentile or a General Ability Index at the 97th percentile on the WISC (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children) Fourth Edition (or an equivalent score on another individual intelligence test).

**Studies have shown that students with high intelligence have special educational needs that usually cannot be met with a regular classroom curriculum. The higher the IQ, the more it deviates from the average; thus, the greater is the need of the student. To provide the highest quality of services, we can place only those students who show greatest need. The chart below shows the distribution of IQ scores in the general population.*



Used with permission, copyright (c) The Davidson Foundation

STEP 5 The child and his or her parents are given information about the ALERT Program and asked to make the final decision as to whether or not it is appropriate for the child to participate.

Please note: The ALERT Program is offered to fulfill an educational need, not as an honor or award.