

Notes from HC Meeting, Jan. 22 2026

Speakers: Principal Eckert, Mrs. P

I. Welcome from Alicia Aahl (PTSA Advocacy Chair) and Laura Prudhomme (PTSA Building Leadership Team Liaison)

II. What is the Highly Capable Designation?

- Designation: Designation meant to identify students who perform at advanced academic levels compared to their peers.
- Identified based on standardized testing, growth and academic feedback in Math and English Language Arts (ELA).
- Once a student has an HC designation, they keep it– you do not have to decide to attend a cohort school immediately, you can reevaluate year after year.

III. Options for HC students:

- Elementary school
 - Enroll at cohort school (for our geographical area, this is Cascadia Elementary.)
 - At cohort schools, math is taught two grade levels above, and ELA is taught 1 grade level above (grades 2-5).
 - Stay at neighborhood school and receive HC services there.
- Middle school & high school
 - HC designated students can enroll at HC pathway schools.
 - Our home schools (Hamilton and Lincoln) are HC pathway schools.
 - Students from Cascadia and students from BF Day feed into the same schools.
 - For middle and high schools, the HC designation offers access to above grade level math; all other subjects use cluster group model.
 - In high school, AP classes are available to any student.

IV. Changes at the district level:

- Updated Identification Process and Timeline
 - Now largely based on [RIT scores](#) which are the raw scores on the MAP test, against national data.
 - RIT scores have a margin of error; for students who fall within the margin of error, other evidence is also considered and a whole team looks at the student's file (Source- Stephanie Gove-Yin from Friends of HiCap Seattle)
 - Automatic selection for students who meet baseline criteria.
 - Eligibility is extended to students who meet a combination of objective and supportive criteria.

- Eligibility letters sent via the source on **Feb 5, 2026**.
- Appeal window: **Feb 5–20, 2026**.
- Final appeal decisions available on **Feb 27, 2026**.
- Universal screening in 1st and 4th grades; can be screened via referral in any other year as well.
- Resource allocation
 - Proposed expansion: Two new cohort sites(Blended Model like in Thurgood Marshall Elementary) at Alki and Rainier View Elementary, pending Board vote Feb 11, 2026.
 - District is using more funds for professional development (teacher training focused on HC), instead of universal screening every year.
 - Awareness that HC services at neighborhood schools are inconsistent across and within schools, and there is high demand and work to be done.

V. HC Education at BF Day

- Models for offering HC education
 - BF Day:
 - Depth
 - Standards acceleration (compacting, enriching, extending)
 - Contrast w/ cohort school, which focuses on grade-level acceleration.
- Examples of techniques used in the classroom at BF Day:
 - To increase depth and complexity- use open ended tasks, - Logical thinking puzzles
 - Small group work
 - Book Clubs with peers
 - Increased choice in projects
 - Daily lessons with “push goals” - targeted challenges to extend student learning
 - Self-assessments
 - Math: challenge packets, small groups, Success Maker(adaptive computer program for personalized math practice)
- **Please see slides for specific examples of challenge, increased complexity, depth, etc. in assignments and discussions!**
- Teachers (and other educators) get to know students individually and meet them where they are, regardless of whether they have an HC designation.
 - If a student is ready for more challenge, the goal is to be offered more challenge. This can vary by teacher.
 - If a student needs extra support, they are offered extra support.
 - BF Day is a school where each child is known personally, to meet their changing needs as they grow and learn.
 - BF Day also places focus on social emotional learning, becoming a whole learner and person.

VI. Math Pathways (to middle school and beyond)

- SPS has designed 3 different pathways for neighborhood school students to have a path to take AP Calculus by senior year of high school (the highest level of math available in SPS).
- Path 1:
 - 6th grade: 6th grade math with differentiation as needed.
 - 7th grade: Compacted math 7/8
 - 8th grade: Algebra
 - High school: AP Calc by senior year
- Path 2:
 - Summer between 5th and 6th grade: Online summer math program
 - 6th grade: Math 7/8
 - 7th grade: Algebra
 - 8th grade: Geometry
 - High school: AP Calc by junior year
- Path 3:
 - Direct enrollment to Math 7/8 in 6th grade, for students who demonstrate mastery of 6th grade math standards on the MAP assessment during 5th grade

VII. Q&A - please direct questions to advocacy@bfdayptsa.org