

Peak to Peak Elementary School

Gifted and Special Needs Policies

Elementary Ability Group Placement

At Peak to Peak, we strive to challenge and support students at their ability level. It is our goal to have all students at grade level and above. All students will be placed in Math and Language Arts classes through spring and fall placement tests. The body of evidence for math placement may include the Standards Based Test, teacher observations, daily class work, diagnostic checkpoints, classroom unit tests, TCAP scores and CogAT. The Language Arts body of evidence may include benchmark leveled readers, running records, TCAP, DRA2, selection tests, unit tests, fresh reads, writing samples and CogAT. Appropriate placement is evaluated throughout the year.

If a student is working below expectations at his/her current placement, a placement parent/guardian conference will be held. During the conference, the teacher will provide student data from interventions (including parent/guardian contact) to show that this placement is inappropriate. Following the meeting, the student will be moved to an “appropriate” placement.

For a student to be moved into Accelerated Classes (classes operating above a student’s current grade level), the student must show through data and assessment (which can/may include student performance, class work, tests, teacher recommendation/observation) that this is an appropriate placement. In addition, the student’s placement must be approved by the teacher, principals and parents/guardians.

In order for a student to be placed one grade level above their current grade level in a subject matter, they must be identified as gifted and/or show mastery at all current grade level subject tests and pass the pretests for the grade level above.

In order to qualify as gifted, a student needs to be nominated by the teacher and/or the parent. They will be referred to the ALPs (Appropriate Learning Placement) Coordinator for assessment.

All final decisions regarding student placement will be approved by the Elementary Principal under the advisement of the classroom teachers.

If parents/guardians do not agree with the final decision, they must follow the Peak to Peak Communication Pathway.