Criteria for the Gifted and Talented Program
LEAP

In an effort to provide a more intentional and rigorous Gifted and Talented program for students in Belle Plaine Public Schools, we have refined the criteria for admittance into the program. The criteria you see below will be used to qualify students for our Gifted and Talented (LEAP) Program.

Beginning at second grade, students will begin their qualification process if they perform in the **90th percentile or above on our local Formative Assessment System for Teachers ™.** FASTBridge has two components: adaptive math and adaptive reading (See page 1 for Assessment details.)

Those performing at or above the 90th percentile in 2nd grade reading/math or at or above the 95th percentile in reading/math in grades 3 - 6 will then be assessed using the CogAT. The CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime, and at different rates for different individuals. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which contribute to school achievement as well.

If a student is eligible for the Belle Plaine Public Schools LEAP Program based on the listed criteria, the programming model will be as presented on page 2 under **Program Details**.

Screening Assessment: FASTBridge Assessment
Beginning at 2nd Grade or new to the district
≥90th Percentile- National
Students in grades 3-6 may qualify for CogAT if score in ≥95th Percentile - National
Math and Reading

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Selection Screening: CogAT
Students meeting criteria for FASTBridge Assessment above
≥118 Composite Standard Age Score or/and have a
CogAT APR percentile of 90% or higher

FASTBridge ™

- aMath is a simple, efficient, computer adaptive measure of both broad and component math skills from kindergarten through 6th grade (K-6). aMath is highly researched and based on the recommendations of the National Math Panel (2008) and National Common Core Standards (2010). aMath includes fully automated administration and scoring of individualized assessments for purposes of universal screening and instructional leveling. It also provides skill-based diagnostic reports of strengths and weaknesses along with progress monitoring and instructional evaluation.
- aReading provides a useful estimate of broad reading achievement from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The questions and response format used in aReading is substantially similar to many state-wide, standardized assessments. aReading is a simple and efficient procedure that is fully automated. Browser-based software adapts and individualizes the assessment for each child so that it essentially functions at the child's developmental and skill level. The adaptive nature of the test makes it more efficient and more precise than paper-and-pencil assessments.

CogAT

- CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which also contribute importantly to school achievement.
- The Verbal Battery measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- The Quantitative Battery measures quantitative reasoning skills; flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts; and the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.
- The Nonverbal Battery measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must invent strategies for solving novel problems. They must be flexible in using these strategies and accurate in implementing them.

Belle Plaine Public Schools LEAP Program Details

To the Family of : _____

Recently, your child took the FASTBridge Assessment in reading and math. Their results were as follows:

Subject	Score	National Percentile
Math		
Reading		

Based on these results, your child is being considered for the Gifted and Talented LEAP Program. We would like to obtain further permission to assess your child using the CogAT. The CogAT assesses reasoning and problem solving skills. If your child scores ≥118 Composite Standard Age Score or is at the Age Percentile Rank ≥90% they will qualify for our Gifted and Talented LEAP Program. Results of the CogAT will be shared with the child and parents as soon as they are completed and scored.

Please sign below to indicate that your child has permission to be assessed using the CogAT.

Parent Signature: _____ Date:_____