

UNCOVERING POTENTIAL

“District practices for identifying the most highly capable students must prioritize equitable identification of low-income students.”

RCW 28A.185.020, WAC 392-170-045



The goal of the Coalition is “Learning Without Limits.” Currently, many districts do not use “best practices” for identification and thus place *inequitable limits* on discovering and nurturing potential for far too many students.

Advancing equity is a choice. Effective leaders accept the challenge and work to dismantle barriers so that children from all backgrounds get what they need to reach for their personal best. [3]

The “best practice” for identification of potential is to cast a wide net - universal screening of all students in one or more elementary or middle school grades. [1] Universal screening in and of itself does not identify students as highly capable nor entitle them to HCP services. Rather, students identified by universal screening are then considered in more depth for possible identification by the multi-disciplinary selection committee. [2]

Universal screening is considered the best and most equitable means of finding students of potential from traditionally under-represented communities. It is the best and fairest way to implement the Legislature’s directive to prioritize the identification of low income students for the Program and will extend Program benefits to other traditionally under-represented groups.

[1] <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/research/there-gifted-gap-gifted-education-high-poverty-schools>

[2] <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=392-170-070>

[3] M. Rene Islas, Twitter, March 13, 2019