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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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August 18, 2017

( ) Action Required

(X) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 064-17 SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers  
District Highly Capable Program Managers  
School Building Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2017–18 Highly Capable Program—Changes in the Law (EHB 2242)

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### **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

The new law—EHB 2242—signed on June 30, made changes to the Highly Capable funding formula and equitable identification priorities. To assist with reporting and monitoring there will be changes to the Highly Capable Program iGrants form packages (FP), and the Consolidated Program Review (CPR) questions. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Highly Capable Program is committed to partnering with Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) across the state to support efforts to provide services for Highly Capable students. Our intent is to ensure district time is spent focused on their Highly Capable students. OSPI also wants to encourage more rural LEAs to engage in multiple pathways to serve their Highly Capable students.

**[Engrossed House Bill \(EHB\) 2242 \(See Section 412\)](#)**

**NOTE:** As part of RCW 28A.150.220(3)(g), the instructional program of basic education provided by each school district shall include programs for Highly Capable students. Consistent with OSPI's approach to the Learning Assistance Program and the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program, a district does not have to accept funds. It does need to ensure services are provided to students who qualify. Under the law, LEAs are to identify their most Highly Capable students and serve them. See RCW 28A.185.020(1) and (2).

The following changes have been made for the 2017–18 school year reporting and review cycle:

1. **New**—The Highly Capable funding formula increases from 2.314 percent to 5.0 percent of each school district’s population. This is a funding formula and does *not* mean a certain percentage of students need to be identified.
2. **New**—EHB 2242 makes equitable identification of low-income students a priority for LEAs. To assist LEAs in the weeks and months ahead, OSPI will provide a webinar, technical assistance, FAQs and professional learning opportunities.
3. **New**—To streamline reporting, the assurances from iGrants FP 778 are merged into Page 1 of the Highly Capable Comprehensive Plan—FP 217. These assurances will include a new assurance regarding the district’s action plan for equitable identification of low-income students. District information entered on Pages 2–6 of FP 217 will roll over from the last approved Highly Capable Comprehensive Plan. LEAs will only update Pages 2–6 if there were major changes in your program identification or services. Finally, a new Page 7 will ask LEAs to explain how they will address equitable identification of low-income students. OSPI staff will look at this plan during CPR.
4. **Timeline**—Because this new aspect of basic education and the Highly Capable Program became law in July 2017, LEAs can provide dates and description of plans and meetings to form a strategy for addressing equitable identification of low-income students.
5. **Rule change**—OSPI is filing an emergency rule adoption to align with HB 2242. It will take effect immediately on filing. The regular process of revising the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to align with the new law will be conducted in 2017-18 and take effect when emergency rules expire.
6. **CPR**—As a reminder, OSPI is changing the overall approach to CPR. The model is moving from compliance to technical assistance. Reviews are completed once every five years for most LEAs. When LEAs are scheduled for CPR, their Highly Capable programs will be reviewed. The review will include the Highly Capable Comprehensive Plan, FP 217, including the plan for prioritizing the equitable identification of low-income students.

LEAs will be reviewed even if they are not accepting funds, as highly capable is part of the program of basic education under RCW 28A.150.220(3). However, OSPI will provide two types of reviews based on district size.

LEAs with Over 1,000 Students: The purpose of the review is to offer technical assistance from OSPI, evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Highly Capable LEA Plan, and improve service delivery to students based on their evaluation.

LEAs with Under 1,000 Students: OSPI will follow the precedent to reduce reporting burden for our smaller LEAs. During CPR, those LEAs may select to complete the process for larger LEAs, or opt for an abbreviated desk review. They will receive technical assistance on ideas for serving their LEA's Highly Capable students, as well as examples of how LEAs of similar size are using their Highly Capable funds.

### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Jody Hess, Program Supervisor for Highly Capable, at 360-725-6171 or email [jody.hess@k12.wa.us](mailto:jody.hess@k12.wa.us) or Jason Miller, Program Supervisor for Highly Capable, at 360-725-6232 or email [jason.miller@k12.wa.us](mailto:jason.miller@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on OSPI's website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2017.aspx>.

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