

COMMONLY ASKED ADVANCED LEARNING QUESTIONS

Below is a summary of the questions received from Lafayette parents regarding the spectrum program and the answers from the Advanced Learning Office with input from Lafayette Administration.

1. If a student has tested into APP while currently enrolled in the spectrum program, but doesn't enroll in an APP program for the following year, are their test results still good for future years (i.e. test into APP in 2nd grade, but not choose to enroll until 5th grade)?

ANSWER: We have stated that as long as a student is participating in an Advanced Learning program and receives an AL report card, they maintain their eligibility. They do not need to retest.

Notes from Lafayette Administration: To be sure that no changes in policy have been made from one year to the next, it is good practice to double check each year to confirm your child does not have to retest. Please note that if a student is in the spectrum program and tests into APP that you must enroll the student in APP if you want the student in the APP program – they are not automatically placed based on testing.

2. When there is a waiting list for Spectrum, how are students selected from the waiting list? Is it based on living in the reference school area and sibling preference?

ANSWER: Enrollment has a formula that gives preference to siblings first, then students living in the cluster/reference area, then lottery.

Notes from Lafayette Administration: Students are posted to the waitlist based on the criteria listed above. The criteria will determine the order of placement on the waitlist. The School District contacts the students in order of their placement on the list if/when space becomes available.

3. If a student is wait-listed for the spectrum program, but do not get in for the current school year, do they need to re-test the following year or just attempt to re-enroll?

ANSWER: Eligibility is maintained for one year if the student is on a waitlist. Families should retest if they do not get placement for the second year.

Notes from Lafayette Administration: Waitlists are dissolved at the end of October.

4. How often are students currently enrolled in spectrum re-tested for eligibility in the spectrum program?

Currently, students are only required to re-test in the 5th grade to determine eligibility for middle school. That could certainly change, but it is the current policy.

*****Please note:*** *If a student has tested into the spectrum or APP programs, they are not automatically placed into those classrooms by the district or Lafayette administration – parents must enroll students into the programs.*

It is also important to be aware that if your child was placed into the spectrum classroom based on teacher recommendation they will also need to test and enroll to continue in the program. This occurs most often in the first grade spectrum class. Those students WILL NOT be automatically enrolled for second grade and will need to test during their first grade year and officially enroll in the program once tested in.