LCPS EDGE Programs

EDGE

Purpose: The mission of Loudoun County Public Schools is to empower students to make meaningful contributions to the world. The way we do that is through designing authentic, challenging learning experiences for students that lead to deeper learning. We also provide equitable learning experiences and supports that lead to deeper learning. The EDGE program is designed to provide additional academic challenges for students who exhibit gifted potential and who are from groups historically underrepresented in gifted programs.

Description: The EDGE (Empowering Diversity in Gifted Education) program is designed to provide additional academic challenges and experiences for students who exhibit gifted potential and who are from groups historically underrepresented in gifted programs. These equitable learning experiences lead to deeper learning for students. This may include students from culturally or linguistically diverse or low socio-economic backgrounds or students who have disabilities (twice exceptional). The EDGE program is currently implemented in the schools listed below. If parents want to know more about EDGE at their school or are interested in getting a program started, they should reach out to the SEARCH teacher at their child’s school.

Schools Participating:
Ashburn Elementary School
Cool Springs Elementary School
Countryside Elementary School
Evergreen Mill Elementary School
Forest Grove Elementary School
Frederick Douglass Elementary School
Guilford Elementary School
Leesburg Elementary School
Meadowland Elementary School
Rolling Ridge Elementary School
Sugarland Elementary School
Sully Elementary School
Sterling Elementary School

Target Audience: Students who exhibit gifted potential and who are from groups historically underrepresented in gifted programs. This may include students from culturally or linguistically diverse or low socio-economic backgrounds or students who have disabilities (twice exceptional).
### Number of Students Participating:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th># of Students Participating in EDGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>163</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>397</td>
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**Plans for Expansion:**  The goal of the 2018-2019 school year is to increase the number of schools implementing EDGE where data demonstrates underrepresentation. Based upon an analysis of school demographic data compared to school gifted enrollment, several elementary schools have expressed their intention to launch an EDGE program at their schools this year.

**Potential New EDGE Schools:**

- Algonkian ES
- Banneker ES
- Belmont Station ES
- Buffalo Trail ES
- Cedar Lane ES
- Hutchison Farm ES
- Kenneth Culbert ES
- Lovettsville ES
- Mill Run ES
- Mountain View ES
- Pinebrook ES
- Potowmack ES
- Rosa Lee Carter ES
- Seldens Landing ES
- Steuart Weller ES
Additional Information:
SY 2018-2019 efforts to facilitate the expansion of EDGE include:

- Conducted a workshop for all SEARCH teachers to model how to review school data and compare school demographics with gifted enrollment to identify gaps and determine need for an EDGE program. Teachers were encouraged to share the data with their school administrators and discuss a plan for EDGE implementation.
- Provided professional development for all SEARCH teachers on how to start and expand an EDGE program.
- Provide school visits to help develop EDGE plans and assist in launching a new program.

EDGE Plus (Academy)

Purpose
The mission of Loudoun County Public Schools is to empower students to make meaningful contributions to the world. The way we do that is through designing authentic, challenging learning experiences for students that lead to deeper learning. We also provide equitable learning experiences and supports that lead to deeper learning. The EDGE Plus (EDGE- Experiences Designed for Growth and Excellence Academy) program focuses on combating the excellence gap and provides increased exposure to STEM opportunities for students. The EDGE Plus program is a critical support program for LCPS’s current EDGE program which was created to provide additional academic challenges and experiences to economically, ethnically or linguistically diverse students who exhibit gifted potential.

Description
The EDGE Plus program builds on these foundational practices described in the EDGE (Gifted program) and engages students in activities intended to build mathematical and critical thinking skills. EDGE Plus focuses on identifying high achieving, economically vulnerable students with the goal of helping them plan and prepare for academically rigorous coursework in middle and high school and for entry into rigorous and competitive academic programs such as the LCPS Academies of Loudoun. EDGE Plus also serves as a bridge program to CAMPUS (College Achievement Minority Program for Unique Students). CAMPUS is an academic and college preparation program designed to meet the needs of students who are prospective first-generation college students. In SY 17-18 EDGE Plus was funded by a $35,000 Good Neighbor Grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. In SY 18-19 & SY 19-20 EDGE Plus will be funded by a $200,000 Academic Enrichment Grant with additional support from the LCPS HHMI Science Grant.

Schools Participating
Forest Grove
Meadowland Elementary
Sugarland Elementary

Target Audience
EDGE Plus identifies student participants by using the results from the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), which is given to all LCPS 2nd grade students and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), which is given to all LCPS 3rd grade students. Students who have discrepancies between their Verbal and Nonverbal and/or Quantitative scores (e.g. high scores on Nonverbal and/or Quantitative and low scores on Verbal) and who are economically vulnerable are targeted for participation in EDGE Plus. This discrepancy is significant in that these students may be high achieving but are not recognized as such because of language barriers and a perceived lack of verbal skills.
Number of Students Participating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th># of Students Participating in EDGE Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 (30 at each school)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (30 at each school)</td>
<td>90</td>
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Plans for Expansion
Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), in partnership with the Loudoun Education Foundation (LEF) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), has secured funding to sustain and expand EDGE Plus for the next three years. For school year 2018-19, EDGE Plus will continue at the three current elementary schools and will expand to three additional elementary schools in the LCPS Park View Cluster. The HHMI grant to LCPS includes funding for EDGE Plus personnel, both a coordinator for the program and pay for teachers. SunTrust Bank is providing start-up and miscellaneous STEM equipment for the two additional elementary schools. They are also providing volunteers who will support EDGE Plus students as subject matter experts and mentors. The LEF is also seeking Raytheon and Orbital ATK as additional future partners to provide funding and STEM professionals.

EDGE3 - Level Up

Purpose
EDGE3 - Level Up, is designed to extend the STEM readiness pipeline to the middle school level.

Description
According to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation the “excellence gap” appears in elementary school and continues as students move through middle school, high school, college, and beyond (excellence gap.org). EDGE3 - Level Up proposes to address this issue by identifying high-performing, low-income students and creating pathways for these advanced learners. EDGE3 - Level Up will identify students from low-income backgrounds with academic potential and provide intensive, engaging support in the STEM areas. The goal is to increase the pool of students prepared to apply for and succeed in advanced academic programs – whether it is gifted education, Advanced Placement courses, or competitive programs such as the Academies of Loudoun

Schools Participating
Seneca Ridge Middle School
Sterling Middle School

Target Audience
The EDGE3 - Level Up program targets students in grades 6 and 7 who have been identified as exhibiting gifted potential and who participated in the EDGE Plus Academy program during their 4th and/or 5th grade year. The identification process for EDGE3 - Level Up is modeled after the EDGE Plus Academy process. The process begins with an analysis of ability test scores including the Cognitive Abilities Test
(CogAT) and the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT), which are administered to all LCPS students in grades two and three, respectively. The NNAT is specifically designed to identify high ability among students who are historically underrepresented in gifted education programs. Special attention will be paid to students who have a significant discrepancy between the verbal and nonverbal batteries of the CogAT. Student performance on carefully selected, high-level tasks completed with the guidance of a gifted resource teacher is considered. Information about classroom performance is gathered and analyzed. A student does not need to be performing to his/her potential yet, but there needs to be evidence to show a need for placement.

**Number of Students Participating**

In year one, 60 students will participate in EDGE - Level Up. Students who are currently participating as 5th graders in EDGE Plus Academy, 15 each from Sterling, Sugarland, and Meadowland elementary schools, along with 15 additional grade 6 students at Sterling Middle School (60 students total), will be identified and invited to participate in EDGE – Level Up. In year two, because of the possible expansion of EDGE Plus Academy to two additional elementary schools in school year 2018-19, there will be 30 grade 7 students and 75 grade 6 students, for a total of 135 EDGE – Level Up participants.

**Plans for Expansion**

EDGE - Level Up will be sustained and expanded through the use of Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant funds once the Selective High School Grant support has ended. The HHMI grant currently supports LCPS Summer STEM camp and will be used to sustain and grow the EDGE Plus Academy, over the next three years, to thirteen elementary schools. As EDGE Plus Academy grows, we will need to continue to expand EDGE - Level Up in order to create the pipeline through middle school to high school. LCPS will work in partnership with the Loudoun Education Foundation to identify funding opportunities.