

Gifted Education in Ohio

A Factsheet for Parents

Who is “Gifted” in Ohio?

Gifted students are defined in the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01) as those who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment.

Identification

All public schools in Ohio, with the exception of “community schools,” are required to identify gifted students in grades K-12. Students are identified as gifted in one or more of four major categories: superior cognitive ability; specific academic ability; creative thinking ability; and visual or performing arts ability. There are four fields included in specific academic ability: mathematics; science; reading, writing or a combination of these skills; and social studies.

Identification is accomplished by using scores on approved performance assessments and nationally-normed tests. The identification requirements for each category are listed below:

Superior Cognitive Ability	Specific Academic Ability	Creative Thinking Ability	Visual or Performing Arts Ability
Score two standard deviations above the mean minus the standard error of measurement on an intelligence test, perform at or above the 95th percentile on a basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test, or attain an approved score on an above grade-level standardized, nationally normed test.	Perform at or above the 95th percentile at the national level on a standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field. A child may be identified as gifted in more than one specific academic ability field.	Score one standard deviation above the mean minus the standard error of measurement on an intelligence test and attain a sufficient score, as established by the Department, on a test of creative ability or a checklist of creative behavior.	Demonstrate to a trained individual through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area and attain a sufficient score, as established by the Department, on a checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area.

Referring Your Child for Screening

You have the right to refer your child for screening for possible gifted identification. Districts will provide two opportunities for such testing each year. The information on procedures for making a referral should be provided to you when requested. Testing should be provided in your child’s native language and take into account accommodations that may be necessary for students with disabilities so that the results accurately reflect the child's aptitude or achievement level.

If your child has been identified as gifted by an Ohio public school, your child would be considered identified as gifted in any other Ohio public school. Therefore, if you move from one Ohio school district to another, make sure the former district transfers gifted identification information to your child’s new school and to make the new school aware that your child has



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been identified as gifted. Districts will also honor, for gifted identification purposes, qualifying scores on approved tests administered within the last 24 months by a licensed school psychologist or psychologist in private practice.

For details on gifted screening and identification procedures in your child's district, contact the gifted coordinator or your child's principal and request a copy of the district's "gifted identification plan."

Services for Gifted Students

Districts are required to identify students as gifted. However, school districts are not required to provide gifted education services. Currently, the state provides school districts with partial funding for identifying gifted students and employing or contracting gifted education staff.

It is recommended that districts provide a "continuum of services" to serve the diverse needs of gifted students. School district may use a variety of approaches to address the unique learning needs of gifted students, including: offering advanced courses for gifted students; enrichment programs in "resource rooms;" differentiated instruction in regular classrooms with support from a gifted intervention specialist; and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Services may also include individualized opportunities such as mentorships, internships, and educational options. Districts that provide gifted services must provide equitable access to those services based on written criteria. For information about gifted service offerings and placement criteria in your child's district, contact his or her principal or the district gifted coordinator.

All gifted education services provided to a student are guided by a Written Education Plan (WEP.) The WEP should describe the services to be provided to the student, identify who will provide these services, establish learning goals and evaluation methods, and set a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision. Districts are required to provide a current copy of the WEP to the gifted student's parents and all staff designated on the WEP as providers of gifted services. Districts are also required to provide to parents periodic reports on the effectiveness of the services prescribed on the WEP.

Since the 2006-2007 school year, all districts are required to provide opportunities for academic acceleration, including early entrance to kindergarten, whole grade acceleration ("grade skipping"), acceleration in individual subject areas, and early high school graduation. Parents considering acceleration should contact the district gifted coordinator or their child's principal for information about referring the child for evaluation. Parents have the right to request screening and to participate in the evaluation process.

Many gifted high school students would also benefit from the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO), which provides opportunities for high school students to take courses from community colleges, colleges, and universities, often simultaneously earning high school and college credit. Contact your school's guidance counselor for information about PSEO.



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Gifted high school students should also consider participating in an Ohio Summer Honors Institute or the Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted. These university-based summer programs sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education provide tuition-free opportunities for students to interact with college and university faculty and gifted peers while gaining experience learning in a college environment.

Getting Help and Information

If a gifted coordinator serves your district, he or she will likely be the best source of current information about gifted services, identification procedures, and other opportunities for gifted students in your district. If your district is not served by a gifted coordinator, your child's principal or guidance counselor can likely provide information about local opportunities, policies and procedures.

Many district also have organized gifted parent groups that provide opportunities to learn about issues related to parenting gifted children, share information about opportunities for gifted children in the district and community, and work collaboratively to support and improve local gifted education. Ask your gifted coordinator whether there is a parent group active in your community.

If you are not satisfied with decisions made about gifted screening or placements in gifted services, you have a right to an appeal. Ask your gifted coordinator or a district official for information about local appeals policies and procedures. Parents who believe that their district has violated state laws and operating standards regarding gifted education may also submit a written complaint to the Ohio Department of Education. Please see below for information about submitting a complaint to ODE.

The Ohio Department of Education also has gifted education consultants who can provide technical assistance to districts and answer questions from parents about parent and district rights and responsibilities, state-sponsored opportunities for gifted children and academic acceleration. Gifted education consultants at ODE can be reached by sending e-mail to: gifted@ode.state.oh.us or by calling (614) 387-2232.



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Resources on the Web

The ODE website contains a number of documents that may be useful to parents. To access all pages, simply go to our website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and use the search function to find the information you are seeking. Following is a list of commonly accessed materials and the search term to use in order to find them online.

Webpage Name	Search Term
Gifted Operating Standards	<i>gifted operating standards</i>
Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners	<i>acceleration</i>
Identification: Who is Gifted in Ohio by Law and Rule?	<i>gifted law</i>
Written Education Plans (WEPs) for Gifted Students	<i>WEP</i>
Handbooks for Identification of Students Who Are Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts	<i>gifted arts</i>
Educating Gifted Students with Disabilities: The Twice Exceptional Guide	<i>twice exceptional</i>
Complaint Procedures for Gifted Education	<i>gifted complaints</i>
Ohio Summer Honors Institutes	<i>SHI</i>
Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted	<i>Essex</i>
Cutoff Scores for the Identification of Gifted Students Using Assessment Instruments Approved for Above-Grade Level Testing	<i>gifted cut-off</i>
Chart of Approved Assessment Instruments for Gifted Screening and Identification	<i>gifted assessment</i>

Additional Information

Parents may also find useful information on the following Websites. Please note that these sites are not affiliated with the Ohio Department of Education, and ODE is not responsible for their content.

Ohio Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.oagc.com/>

National Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.nagc.org/>

National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented: <http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/NRCGT.html>

Midwest Talent Search - Center for Talent Development: <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/>

Belin-Blank Center: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/>

