



IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE GIFTED

GIFTED & TALENTED

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GIFTED & TALENTED PURPOSE STATEMENT

Identify and nurture gifted scholars through a continuum of services delivered in appropriate and challenging learning environments with rigor and individualization to foster creativity, leadership, and social-emotional well-being.

VISION

Rigorous, student-centered learning experiences and social-emotional supports delivered by collaborative teams.

Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

Definition

“Gifted” means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Screening and Assessment

- *Whole Grade Screening* - Students in K-8 will be screened in reading and math 2-3 times per year. Notification of new gifted identification will occur in November, February, and May. Students in grade 2 and grade 5 are tested in November to screen in superior cognitive ability and creative thinking ability. Scores are usually sent home in February.
- *Alternative Testing* - Any student in Grades K-12 may be referred for testing in superior cognitive, specific academic, or creative thinking abilities for up to 2 opportunities per year for testing (including whole grade screenings). Referral packets and deadlines are online and available from the Gifted & Talented office. Scores are mailed home within 4 weeks of testing.
- *Visual and Performing Arts Assessment* - The assessment process for Visual and Performing Arts is a multi-step process that occurs in two cycles: one in the fall and one in the winter/spring. Parent permission is obtained shortly after the window closes with teachers completing the checklists in October/February and eligible students finishing the process with their audition or display of talent in November/March.

Transfer Students

Gifted identification in another Ohio public school district will be recognized by Columbus City Schools. Families should provide evidence of the identification by way of letter from the previous district or other documentation. Students identified as gifted by a district outside of Ohio may be identified in Ohio if the tests used are less than 24 months old and are on the Ohio Department of Education’s approved list of instruments. If the testing does not meet that criteria, the student may be referred for testing within 90 days of enrollment at parent request.

Appeals Procedures

In the event of a concern, families should contact the Director of Gifted & Talented. However, if that does not answer the concern, appeals of results must be submitted in writing within 30 days of notification of test results. Appeals should be mailed to the Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning, 3700 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43207. The Executive Director of Teaching and Learning will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal.

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS USED BY THE DISTRICT FOR GIFTED IDENTIFICATION

The district uses state-approved assessment instruments for screening and identification. Instruments selected depend on the area to be assessed. Cut scores vary by instrument but are determined by the Ohio Department of Education in line with criteria set by Ohio Revised Code. For a full list of approved instruments, visit the Ohio Department of Education website. For further explanation of tests used by Columbus City Schools, please contact the Gifted & Talented Division.

GIFTED SERVICE MODELS

Columbus City Schools ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive appropriate services offered by the district.

Written Education Plans

Students who receive gifted services require a Written Education Plan (WEP). The purpose of a WEP is to communicate among gifted specialists, classroom teachers and parents about the gifted service a child is receiving. The gifted service should match the child's areas(s) of identification. WEPs are available for parents' review and input during Parent Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring.

Withdrawal

If a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services, a written request is necessary. This will trigger a process that includes a conference with the teacher, implementation of an intervention plan, a follow up conference, and then decision about withdrawal. The request must be signed by the parent and addressed to the Director of Gifted & Talented. Service will continue unless the director receives a parent's written signed notification.

Columbus Gifted Academy

Students in grades 3 through 8 are enrolled in their home school but attend class all day at the Columbus Gifted Academy. Students must be identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or in both reading and math to be enrolled in these programs. Transportation is provided to in accordance with district transportation rules.

Arts Impact Middle School/Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School

Students identified as gifted in the visual or performing arts who attend Arts Impact Middle School or Fort Hayes High School have the arts embedded into the daily instructional program. Students may also access unique arts courses taught by qualified arts instructors.

Elementary School Opportunities

Gifted Reading & Math

Select elementary schools have gifted reading and math classes for grades 3-5 taught by a licensed gifted specialist. Students identified as gifted in that subject area or in creative thinking with a score of 85th percentile or higher on the most recent national achievement test in that subject may participate. Transportation is provided to these buildings in accordance with district transportation rules.

Gifted Support at Language Immersion Schools

Students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability in grades 3-6 will interact with a gifted specialist 225 minutes per week in their regular classrooms at Ecole Kenwood French Immersion School and Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy.

Middle School Opportunities

Gifted Reading & Math

Select middle schools have gifted cluster reading and math classes for grades 6-8 taught by a content teacher with a gifted specialist visiting part-time. Students identified as gifted in that subject area or in creative thinking with a score of 85th percentile or higher on the most recent national achievement test in that subject may participate.

Transportation is provided to these buildings in accordance with district transportation rules.

High School Opportunities

Advanced Placement (AP) & International Baccalaureate (IB)

Schools across the district offer an array of Advanced Placement courses. The Gifted & Talented division coordinates compliance with College Board rules for these courses. Students may earn college credit as a result of spring AP exams. IB college level courses and credit and IB diplomas are offered at Columbus Alternative HS.

College Credit Plus

Students may apply to take college courses at local universities while still in high school. Please contact your guidance counselor for more information.

Credit Flexibility

High school students may earn credit for high school coursework through alternative methods, such as independent study, outside courses, online learning programs, or testing out of the course. Please visit your guidance counselor or the district's credit flexibility webpage for more details.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Academic Acceleration

Students who are significantly advanced in one or more subject areas may be referred for acceleration to the next level in a particular subject area or next grade level overall. Referrals must be made at least 60 days prior to the start of the semester. Student placement will be determined in accordance with the district's acceleration policy.

Primary Enrichment Thinking Skills Program

Primary enrichment specialists teach lessons on thinking skills to whole classes and small groups of students. This is a pilot program in 38 elementary schools for all K-2 students in the selected schools.

Enrichment Opportunities

Examples of the many enrichments opportunities are Chess, Invention Convention, Math Works, and Debate. Principals are informed of these options and work with staff to make select options available to students.

Summer Opportunities

A starter list of summer opportunities can be found on the Gifted & Talented website at www.ccsoh.us. Scholarships are available to eligible families through Support for Talented Students at www.supportfortalentedstudents.org and the Ohio Association for Gifted Children at www.oagc.com.

P.A.C.E.

PACE is the organization for families of gifted students in Columbus and meets monthly. For information, visit www.columbuspace.org or their Facebook page.