



**Policy and Plan  
for the 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.

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*Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*  
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### ***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 and at high schools using the *iReady* test will be screened in reading and math 2-3 times per year. Notification of new gifted identification will occur in October, February, and May. Students in grades K/1 earning scores at or above the 95th percentile on *iReady* will be offered an opportunity to be tested for gifted identification. Students in grade 2 take the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test* and students in grade 5 take the *Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT)* in November to screen in superior cognitive ability. Students who score high on the *Naglieri* and *CogAT* will also be screened for creative thinking. 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 two opportunities per year for testing (including whole grade testing). Referral forms are online and in the Gifted & Talented office. Students with permission by September 30 will be tested between October 1 and February 28. Students with permission by February 28 will be tested between March 1 and year end. Students referred after March 1 may be tested the next fall. Scores are mailed within 30 days of testing.
- *Visual and Performing Arts Assessment* - The assessment process for Visual and Performing Arts is a multi-step process. Individual referrals in grades K-12 are accepted between August and September 14 and again from October 1 through January 25. All students in grades 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 will be reviewed by their arts teachers for possible referral. Parent permission is obtained soon after the window closes with teachers completing 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 parent concern, parents should contact the Director of Gifted & Talented. However, if that does not answer the parent concern, appeals of results must be submitted in writing within 30 days of parent notification of 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 the following, state-approved assessment instruments for screening and identification. The screening criteria are included.

### *Superior Cognitive Ability*

Cognitive Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 128$
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 126$
Wechsler Intell. Scale for Children:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 127$
Wechsler Preschool/Primary Scale:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 127$
Woodcock-Johnson Cognitive Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 127$
Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Early Cognitive and Academic Development:	Screening $\geq 125$	Identification $\geq 127$

### *Specific Academic Ability*

ACT:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
Iowa Assessments:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
iReady (2-8):	Screening see below	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
PSAT:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
SAT:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
Woodcock-Johnson Achievement Test:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile

\*\*Retesting in reading or math with a paper/pencil test will be offered to students following the winter administration of *iReady* if a student meets the following criteria:

- Student is not already identified as gifted in the subject area.
- At least 1 of the most recent 3 administrations of *iReady* included a score of 93<sup>rd</sup> or 94<sup>th</sup> percentile in the subject area.
- At least 1 additional score out of the most recent 3 administrations of *iReady* included a score at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

\*\*Retesting in reading or math with a paper/pencil test will be offered to students in grades K-1 following the any administration of *iReady* if a student scores 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher.

### *Creative Thinking Ability*

A qualifying score on a cognitive test in conjunction with a qualifying checklist score is required to be identified gifted in Creative Thinking Ability.

Cognitive Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 111$	Identification $\geq 112$
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 109$	Identification $\geq 110$
Wechsler Intell. Scale for Children:	Screening $\geq 111$	Identification $\geq 112$
Woodcock-Johnson Cognitive Ability Test:	Screening $\geq 111$	Identification $\geq 112$
Gifted Rating Scales (Creativity):	Screening 60-65	Identification $\geq 66$
Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students:	Screening 48-50	Identification $\geq 51$

*Visual and/or Performing Arts Ability*

A qualifying score on a checklist and a qualify score on a rubric evaluating a display of talent is required for gifted identification in any area of the visual and performing arts.

Gifted Rating Scales (Artistic):	Screening 60-65	Identification $\geq 66$
Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (Section 5):	Screening 57-77	Identification $\geq 78$
Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students:		
Art	Screening 59-60	Identification $\geq 61$
Music	Screening 37-38	Identification $\geq 39$
Drama	Screening 54-56	Identification $\geq 57$
Ohio Department of Education Rubric for Evaluating Display of Work/Talent:		
Art	Screening 16-20	Identification $\geq 21$
Music	Screening 14-17	Identification $\geq 18$
Drama	Screening 16-19	Identification $\geq 20$
Dance	Screening 20-25	Identification $\geq 26$

## **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, 6-week 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. Mastery learning allows students to learn at their own pace, while problem-based learning helps students apply what they learn to new contexts. Unified Arts instruction is provided, and students may access sport teams through their home school. 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***

#### ***Literacy Enrichment***

All elementary schools have a literacy enrichment resource classroom for grades K-2. Students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking, or reading may participate. Students meet with the gifted specialist 4 hours per week split across 2 or more sessions.

### *Gifted Reading & Math*

Select elementary schools have gifted reading and math classes for grades 3-5. Students identified as gifted in that subject area or in creative thinking with a score of 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on the most recent national achievement test in that subject may participate. Elementary students meet with the gifted specialist 90 minutes per day for reading or 60 minutes per day for math. 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, reading, or math in grades 3-6 will interact with a gifted specialist 225 minutes per week in a combination of pullout and inclusion settings at Ecole Kenwood French Immersion School and Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy.

## ***Middle School Opportunities***

### *Gifted Reading & Math*

Select middle schools have gifted reading and math classes for grades 6-8. Students identified as gifted in that subject area or in creative thinking with a score of 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on the most recent national achievement test in that subject may participate. Middle school students work with a content teacher one period per day in that subject area with a gifted specialist in the class part-time. Transportation is provided to these buildings in accordance with district transportation rules.

### *Gifted Core Enrichment*

All middle schools have a gifted core enrichment period for grades 6-8. Students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking may participate. Students meet with the gifted specialist one period daily.

### *Advanced Math Pathway*

During 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students who are gifted or high achieving in math may be screened for possible access to advanced math courses. Pre-testing occurs in the fall, and the placement test occurs in late winter. Eligible students may take 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math together during 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Integrated Math I during 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A similar option is being explored for other subject areas and will be shared when available.

## ***High School Opportunities***

### *Honors/Accelerated*

Schools across the district may offer the honors/accelerated ELA 9 and 10 courses. The course is open to all students, but it is considered a gifted service for students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking ability, or reading/writing.

### *Advanced Placement (AP)*

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. The courses are open to all students, but they are considered a gifted service for students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking ability, or the subject area of the course.

### *International Baccalaureate (IB)*

IB college level courses and credit and IB diplomas are offered at Columbus Alternative HS. This program is an interdisciplinary, specialized diploma program based on an international approach to education. The courses are open to all students, but they are considered a gifted service for students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking ability, or the subject area of the course.

### *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. The courses are open to all students, but they are considered a gifted service for students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking ability, or the subject area of the course.

### *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. Students must file a plan with the district in accordance with district guidelines. Please visit your guidance counselor or the district's credit flexibility webpage for more details. The courses are open to all students, but they may be considered a gifted service or acceleration for students identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking ability, or the subject area of the course.

## **Other Opportunities for Students & Staff**

### ***Cluster Grouping***

Students in grades 1-10 identified as gifted are placed in the same classroom as other identified students in the same grade level. Teachers differentiate instruction based on student needs. Gifted resource specialists provide resources to teachers to assist teachers with planning.

### ***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.

### ***High School Seminars***

Students gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking may elect to participate in a one-day seminar three times per year. These seminars may include topics such as research skills, creative thinking, problem-solving, or other topics that extend student thinking. Information will be shared prior to each event.

### ***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 enrichment 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.

### ***Midwest Academic Talent Search***

Gifted students in grades 3-8 may take PSAT, SAT, or ACT through Northwestern University's talent search program. Visit [www.numats.org](http://www.numats.org) for information.

### ***Summer Opportunities***

A starter list of summer opportunities can be found on the Gifted & Talented website at [www.ccsch.us](http://www.ccsch.us). Scholarships are available to eligible families through Support for Talented Students at [www.supportfortalentedstudents.org](http://www.supportfortalentedstudents.org) and the Ohio Association for Gifted Children at [www.oagc.com](http://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](http://www.columbuspace.org) or their Facebook page.

### ***Ohio Association for Gifted Children***

This is the state advocacy and educational group for families and educators of gifted learners. For more information, visit [www.oagc.com](http://www.oagc.com).