

Additional Policies

Transfer Students

Students new to the district may be evaluated within 90 days of enrollment upon parent request.

Identification from Other Districts

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

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 thirty days of the appeal.

Further Information

- CCS website - www.ccssoh.us/gifted
- Ohio Department of Education website – education.ohio.gov
- Ohio Association for Gifted Children website – www.oagc.org

Columbus 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.

Identification

Students are formally identified in compliance with Ohio's regulations for gifted and talented identification in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability, and the visual and performing arts.

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry, familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.



Testing & Identification



**Gifted & Talented
Columbus City Schools
3700 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone: (614) 365-6626
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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.

How Are Students Identified?

Students are identified as Gifted and Talented through the use of state-approved assessments. As outlined in House Bill 282, Ohio Revised Code 3301-51-15, the state of Ohio mandates that school districts identify students in four areas: superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability, and the visual and performing arts.

Areas of Identification

Superior Cognitive Ability

Superior cognitive ability is general intellectual ability that is consistently superior to same age peers. This is measured through an individual or group intelligence test. The required score varies based on the test. The district administers the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test* to all students in grade 2 (required score 126) and the *Cognitive Ability Test* (CogAT) to all students in 5 (required score 128). Through alternative testing, students may be administered the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test*, which requires a score of 126, or the *Cognitive Ability Test*, which requires a score of 128. On these tests, 100 is considered an average score.

Specific Academic Ability

Specific academic identification refers to a child's achievement in a specific subject area that is consistently superior to the achievement of same grade peers. The district uses the *Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)* and *iReady* to test reading and math two to three times per year for students in grades K through 8 and select high schools. CCS also uses optional individual, alternative tests throughout the year. Those tests include the *Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement* or the *Iowa Educational Assessments*. Specific academic areas include reading, math, science, and social studies. A student must achieve the 95th percentile or higher in any of these areas to be identified as gifted. A score of 50th percentile is considered average.

Creative Thinking Ability

Creative thinking ability includes consistent divergent thinking that results in unconventional responses to conventional tasks. As a screening measure, the district uses a score of 110 or higher on the Naglieri and 112 or higher on the *CogAT*, a state approved ability test administered to students in grades 2 and 5, respectively. Students who score at this level on individually administered ability tests will also be further assessed for giftedness in creative thinking ability. Students must also earn a qualifying score on a *Checklist of Creative Behaviors* from the *Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students*.

Visual and Performing Arts

Children who demonstrate consistent outstanding aesthetic production in visual art, music, theatre, or dance can be identified as gifted in the arts. The first phase of identification occurs when arts specialists in the schools or parents recommend students as potentially gifted in one or more areas. Next, a behavioral checklist is completed along with a performance assessment scored using an ODE rubric.

Instruments Used for Identification

- *Naglieri Nonverbal Test of Abilities*
- *Cognitive Ability Test*
- *Measure of Academic Progress*
- *iReady*
- *Iowa Educational Assessments*
- *Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test*
- *Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students*
- *Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales*
- *Gifted Rating Scales*
- *ODE Arts Rubric*

Referral Process and Timelines

Whole Grade Screening

Students in K-8 and at high schools using the *Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)* or *iReady* test 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 take the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test* and students in grade 5 take the *Cognitive Ability Test* in November to screen in superior cognitive ability. Students who score high on the *Naglieri* and *Cognitive Ability Test* 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 2 opportunities per year for testing (including whole grade screenings). Referral packets are online and in the Gifted & Talented office. Students referred with permission on file by September 30 will be tested between October 1 and February 28. Students referred with permission on file by February 28 will be tested between March 1 and year end. Students referred after March 1 will be tested the following fall. Scores are mailed home within 4 weeks of testing.

Visual and Performing Arts Assessment

The assessment process for Visual and Performing Arts is multi-step. Individual referrals of students in K-12 are accepted August to September 14 and October 1 through January 25. All students in grades 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 will be considered by arts teachers for referral in the fall. Parent permission is obtained after the referral window closes with teachers completing checklists in October/February and eligible students finishing the process in November/March.