



**GIFTED AND TALENTED**  
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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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## **Gifted Service Frequently Asked Questions**

In accordance with state law, the district has established a process for identifying students as gifted and providing gifted services. Here are common questions about the process. If you have additional questions, please contact the Gifted & Talented Division at 614-365-6626.

**1. *What services are available to students who are gifted in Columbus City Schools?***

Please see the official Gifted and Talented Division brochure for a full explanation of services offered.

**2. *How are placements made?***

Placements are made based on identification area and grade level. Students are matched to the service offered for their grade level that aligns with their area(s) of gifted identification. Location is determined by current school enrollment and home address.

**3. *What if my child is not identified until after the service offer period?***

Students identified as gifted before the beginning of the new school year will be offered the appropriate service at the assigned location for the upcoming school year. Students in grades 3-8 identified after the school year begins and eligible for gifted reading or math classes or Columbus Gifted Academy will be eligible for services beginning the following school year. Students in grades K-2 identified after the school year begins and eligible for the Resource Room class may begin attending immediately after identification.

**4. *My child was enrolled in a gifted reading or math class this year. Will he/she be automatically enrolled in the program next year?***

All students need to return an updated service selection form for the new school year.

**5. *If more students apply for the Columbus Gifted Academy than there are available seats, how will students be selected?***

Students will be assigned points for areas of gifted identification and then ranked by total points. Students will be ranked within each point bracket by most recent cognitive test score then most recent average reading and math score. Placements will begin at the top of the list until seats are filled. A waiting list will be maintained in case placed students should decline or withdraw from the placement.

**6. *Will gifted specialists be working directly with students who are gifted?***

Gifted instructional specialists will teach the classes provided in Category C at the Columbus Gifted Academy and the elementary classes in Category B. Gifted specialists will consult with and co-teach part-time in the middle school classes in Category B. Gifted specialists will teach the K-2 Resource Room, 6-8 Gifted Core Enrichment, and 9-10 Gifted Support Elective offered through the district.

**7. *Are services available in other buildings?***

The opportunities in Category A, which are not official gifted services, are offered at all buildings for all students who are gifted. This includes enrichment programs that are selected by each school. The K-2 Resource Room, 6-8 Gifted Core Enrichment, and 9-10 Gifted Support Elective courses are offered at schools throughout the district.

- 8. Can my student attend the reading or math services in a building other than the school assigned?**  
Placements are made first within the student's current school and then by address on file with the district. A student may apply for enrollment in a different building through the regular lottery process. For more information about the lottery process, please call the School Choice Office at 365-1459 or visit the website at [www.ccssoh.us](http://www.ccssoh.us). If the student is accepted in a different school through the lottery process and is eligible for reading or math services in that building, the student may participate in those services in that location.
- 9. My student was assigned to a different building than where he/she is currently receiving special education or English as a Second Language services. What do we do?**  
Please notify the Gifted & Talented office right away. We do not always know when those services are utilized by students, and we can look for options to ensure your student gets both the gifted education and other special services needed.
- 10. The address listed on our letter was wrong, and the assigned school may not be the one closest to our home. What do we do?**  
Please notify the Gifted & Talented office right away. While we always try to use the most current information on file with the district, we sometimes have incorrect information on hand. We will adjust assignments as needed based on correct address information.
- 11. How do high school students enroll in gifted services?**  
High school gifted services occur in the form of honors, ELA courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses (CAHS), Biomedical engineering programs (Eastmoor), advanced arts courses (Fort Hayes), and College Credit Plus courses. Students in grades 9 and 10 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking may also enroll in the Gifted Support elective course, an online course taught by a gifted specialist. Students self-select these courses during the high school scheduling window. Gifted learners and their families should work with the high school guidance counselor to be scheduled into the available advanced level courses.
- 12. What is available for students who are gifted in other areas that are not officially served by these programs?**  
The opportunities in Category A are offered at all buildings for all students who are gifted. Additionally, information about enrichment options will be available to building principals to implement in a way that works for their building. Finally, our staff will be continuously working on new opportunities that can be shared with staff to help extend instruction for advanced learners. This will be an ongoing process.
- 13. Will my gifted child receive support if he/she does not receive formal gifted services?**  
Regular classroom teachers will be encouraged to differentiate teaching in response to the needs of each of their students, including gifted students. Please work directly with your student's teacher to discuss the support offered in class.
- 14. Can siblings enroll in the buildings that offer gifted services?**  
Siblings may apply for enrollment in those buildings through the regular lottery process. See the lottery application for information about sibling placement.
- 15. Is transportation provided to buildings that offer gifted services?**  
Transportation is provided in accordance with district transportation rules for all students. If a student lives within 2 miles of the assigned school, he/she is considered a walker. Bus transportation is provided to students with a home address more than 2 miles from the assigned school but within the school's city region or if the walking route is deemed too dangerous. For more information about transportation, please call the Transportation Office at 365-5074 or visit the website at [www.ccssoh.us/Transportation](http://www.ccssoh.us/Transportation).

**16. Should we participate in the lottery?**

If your child is eligible for reading or math services, and you would prefer they attend a school other than the one assigned, you may petition to go to that school via the school choice lottery process.

- *For families of middle school students:* If you accept a gifted service offer, it will cancel any previously accepted lottery placements unless the accepted lottery school offers the same gifted service (in that case, please be sure to mark the lottery placement on your gifted service form). If you later decide to refuse the gifted service, the lottery seat cannot be reclaimed.
- *For families of elementary students:* If you accept a lottery placement after accepting a gifted service offer, it will cancel the gifted placement unless the accepted lottery school offers the same gifted service. If you later decide to opt in to a gifted service at another site, your request will be accommodated on a space available basis and in line with our service placement guidelines.

**17. We live outside of the CCS district and attend through an interdistrict open enrollment agreement. Does this letter of services guarantee our spot in the district next year?**

No, it does not. Rules about space availability as set forth in the Interdistrict Open Enrollment agreement still apply. To participate in the reading or math services at the elementary and middle schools, students must be accepted by Interdistrict Open Enrollment to the building offering the service in order to access gifted services in that building. To participate in the Columbus Gifted Academy, students must be accepted through Interdistrict Open Enrollment to a district building to serve as the “primary enrollment.” Additionally, all eligible/interested students who reside within the district must be placed before an IOE student may be placed at the Academy. As with all IOE situations, families must reapply each year.

**18. Do I have to allow my child to participate in the gifted services offered?**

No. Columbus City Schools offers a wide variety of schooling formats, including traditional neighborhood schools, language immersion programs, STEM schools, and many more. As a result, families can find the schooling approach that is best suited to their individual needs. Parents and guardians may decide not include their child in the offered gifted services or to send their child to a neighborhood or lottery school that offers a different type of program. No child’s existing school assignment will be changed without parent/guardian permission. If a parent/guardian opts to not include their child in the Category B or C services, the adult still should sign a service selection form and return it to the Gifted & Talented office. Students eligible for the K-2 Resource Room and 6-8 Gifted Core Enrichment will be automatically enrolled in those programs at their usual school of enrollment. If you do not wish for your student to participate in those programs, please contact the Gifted & Talented Division to complete an opt out form.

**19. What if I decide to withdraw my student from a service mid-year?**

A withdrawal form (available online or from the Gifted & Talented office) must be submitted to the Gifted & Talented office. After the first week of the school year, withdrawal requires a conference with the teacher, a 4-6 week intervention plan to address any concerns, and a follow-up conference before a withdrawal will be approved. If the student is enrolled in a building other than their home school because of the gifted service, the student may be required to return to his or her home school. If space is not available at the home school, the student may be placed in an alternate school and may return to the home school the following year. The School Choice Office and Central Enrollment will assist with any adjustments to school enrollment required.

**20. If I withdraw my child or decline gifted services for my child this school year, will he or she be excluded from services in the future?**

Any service decision made by you is in effect for one school year. If services are offered in future grade levels, your student will be able to participate in those services provided he or she meets the placement criteria in existence at that time for those specific services.