



**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.

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 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 (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 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 a multi-step process. Individual referrals of students 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 considered by their arts teachers for possible referral. 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 parent concern, parents should contact the Supervisor 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.

<i>Superior Cognitive Ability</i>		
Cognitive Ability Test:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 128
Differential Ability Scales:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 126
Kaufman Assess. Battery for Children:		
	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 127
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 126
Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 127
Wechsler Intell. Scale for Children:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 127
Wechsler Preschool/Primary Scale:	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 127
Woodcock-Johnson Cognitive Ability Test:		
	Screening ≥ 125	Identification ≥ 127
<i>Specific Academic Ability</i>		
ACT:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
Iowa Test of Basic Skills:	Screening $\geq 93^{\text{rd}}$ %ile	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
iReady:	Screening see below	Identification $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$ %ile
Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)**:		
	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
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test:		
	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 *MAP* 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 *MAP* included a score of 93rd or 94th percentile in the subject area.
- At least 1 additional score out of the most recent 3 administrations of *MAP* included a score at or above the 90th percentile.

Students who take the ACT in grades 3-8 may be identified as gifted in specific academic abilities based on the qualifying scores set by the state of Ohio.

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 ≥ 111	Identification ≥ 112
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test:	Screening ≥ 109	Identification ≥ 110
Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale:	Screening ≥ 111	Identification ≥ 112
Wechsler Intell. Scale for Children:	Screening ≥ 111	Identification ≥ 112
Woodcock-Johnson Cognitive Ability Test:		
	Screening ≥ 111	Identification ≥ 112
Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (Section 4):		
	Screening 65-82	Identification ≥ 83
Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students:		
	Screening 48-50	Identification ≥ 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.

Advanced Placement Studio Art:	Screening ≥ 4	Identification ≥ 5
Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (Section 5):		
	Screening 57-77	Identification ≥ 78
Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students:		
Art	Screening 59-60	Identification ≥ 61
Music	Screening 37-38	Identification ≥ 39
Drama	Screening 54-56	Identification ≥ 57
Ohio Department of Education Rubric for Evaluating Display of Work/Talent:		
Art	Screening 16-20	Identification ≥ 21
Music	Screening 14-17	Identification ≥ 18
Drama	Screening 16-19	Identification ≥ 20
Dance	Screening 20-25	Identification ≥ 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

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 85th 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 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 reading and math classes for grades 6-8. 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. 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.

Advanced Math Pathway

During 6th 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 7th and 8th grade math together during 7th grade and Integrated Math I during 8th grade. A similar option is being explored for other subject areas and will be shared when available.

High School Opportunities

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.

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.

Kenyon Academic Partnership (KAP)

Select high schools offer courses through Kenyon College with dual high school and college credit upon successful completion of course. Students will have a Kenyon College transcript that can be presented to other universities for possible transfer of credit.

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. 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.

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 EXPLORE, SAT, or ACT through Northwestern University's talent search program. Visit 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. 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.

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.