

**IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN
WHO ARE GIFTED: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
EXCERPT FORM HB 282**

DEFINITIONS

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.01

(B) "GIFTED" means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkable 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 Revised Code.

(C) "SCHOOL DISTRICT" does not include a joint vocational school district.

(D) "SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY FIELD" means one or more of the following areas of instruction:

**mathematics
 science
 reading, writing, or a combination of these skills
 social studies
 visual and performing arts**

IDENTIFICATION PLAN

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.04

The Board of Education of each school district shall adopt a plan by January 1, 2000 for identifying gifted students. The plan shall be submitted to the Department of Education for approval. The Department shall approve the plan within 60 days if it contains all the following:

(A) A description of the assessment instruments from the list adopted by the Department that the district will use to screen and identify gifted students;

(B) Acceptable scheduling procedures for screening and for administering assessment instruments for identifying gifted students. These procedures shall provide:

At least two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of students requesting assessment by teachers, parents, or other students;

Assurance of inclusion in screening and assessment procedures for minority and disadvantaged students, children with disabilities and students for whom English is a second language

Assurance that any student transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of transfer at the request of a parent

(C) Procedures for notification of parents within 30 days about the results of any screening procedure or assessment instrument and the provision of an opportunity for parents to appeal any decision about screening procedure or assessment, the scheduling of children for assessment, or the placement of a

student in any program or for receipt of services;

(D) A commitment that the district will accept scores on assessment instruments provided by other school districts or trained personnel outside of the school district, provided the assessment instruments are on the list approved by the Department of Education under Section 3324.02 of the Revised Code.

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.03

The Board of Education of each school district shall identify gifted students in grades kindergarten through 12 as follows:

(A) A student shall be identified as exhibiting “SUPERIOR COGNITIVE ABILITY” if the student did either of the following within the preceding 24 months:

Scored two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual standardized intelligence test administered by a licensed psychologist;

Accomplished any one of the following:

Scored at least two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved standardized group intelligence test;

Performed at or above the 95th percentile on an approved individual or group standardized basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test.

Attained an approved score on one or more above grade level standardized, nationally normed approved tests.

(B) A student shall be identified as exhibiting “SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY” superior to that of children of similar age in a specific academic area ability field if within the preceding 24 months the student performs at or above the 95th percentile at the national level on an approved individual or group standardized achievement test of specific academic ability of a specific academic ability in that field. A student may be identified in more than one specific academic ability field.

(C) A student shall be identified as exhibiting “CREATIVE THINKING ABILITY” superior to children of similar age, if within the previous 24 months, the student scored one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual or group intelligence test and also did either of the following:

Attained a sufficient score, as established by the Department of Education, on an approved individual or group test of creative ability;

Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by the Department of Education, on an approved checklist of behaviors.

(D) A student shall be identified as exhibiting “VISUAL or PERFORMING ARTS ABILITY” superior to that of children of similar age if the student has done both of the following:

Demonstrated through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area;

Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by the Department of Education, on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area.

SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.06

The Board of Education of each school district shall adopt a statement of its policy for the students screening and identification of gifted students and shall distribute the policy statement to parents. The policy statement shall specify:

(A) The criteria and methods the district uses to screen students and to select students for further assessment who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in one of the gifted areas specified in Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.

(B) The sources of assessment data the district uses to select students for further testing and an explanation for parents of the multiple assessment instruments required to identify gifted students under section 3324.03 of the Revised Code;

(C) An explanation for parents of the methods the district uses to ensure equal access to screening and further assessment by all district students, including minority or disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, and students for whom English is a second language;

(D) Provisions to ensure equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive any services offered by the district;

(E) Provisions for students to withdraw from gifted programs or services, for reassessment of students, and for assessment of students transferring into the district;

(F) Methods for resolving disagreements between parents and the district concerning identification and placement decisions.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.04

(C) Procedures for notification of parents within thirty days about the results of any screening procedure or assessment instrument and the provision of an opportunity for parents to appeal any decision about the results of any screening procedure or assessment, the scheduling of children for assessment, or the placement of a student in any program for the receipt of services.

TO APPEAL, CONTACT YOUR BUILDING PRINCIPAL

SERVICE PLAN

Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.07

(A) The board of education of each school district shall develop a plan for the service of gifted students enrolled in the district that are identified under Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code. Services specified in the plan developed by each board may include such options as the following:

**A differentiated curriculum;
Cluster grouping;
Mentorships;
Accelerated course work;
The post-secondary enrollment option program under Chapter 3365 of the Revised Code;
Advanced Placement;
Honors Classes;
Self-contained classrooms;
Independent Study;
Other options identified in rules adopted by the Department of Education**

(B) Each board shall file the plan developed under Division A of this section with the Department of Education by December 15, 2000. The Department shall review and analyze each plan to determine if it is adequate and to make funding estimates.

(C) Unless otherwise required by law, rule, or as a condition for receipt of funds, school boards may implement the plans developed under Division A of this section, but shall not be required to do so until further action by the General Assembly or State Superintendent or Public Instruction.

DISTRICT POLICY AND PLAN FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED STUDENTS

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, D of section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.

CODE MANDATES THAT STUDENTS BE IDENTIFIED. HOWEVER, CODE DOES NOT MANDATE SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS.

SCREENING AND ASSESSING

The district uses a three-part approach to screen students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creativity, and visual and/or performing arts.

Stage 1: Pre Assessment

The pre-assessment part of the process involves gathering student data from a variety of sources including parent, teacher and peer nominations, grades, portfolios, observations, review of student records, and outstanding products or performances, etc. All students are involved in the pre-assessment pool.

By using the pre-assessment process, the district ensures equal access to screening and further assessment by all district children, including culturally or linguistically diverse children, children from low socioeconomic backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children for whom English is a second language.

Stage 2- Assessment for Screening

The screening stage examines the data gathered from the pre-assessment stage and determines if additional assessment is necessary. In making decisions about additional assessment, existing test data for students is not the sole determining criteria. School personnel examine all available information about a student to determine if an evidence of possible giftedness exists for that student and conduct necessary additional assessment.

District determined cut off scores, to move students from the screening stage to the assessment stage, are lower than the scores necessary for identification. Parents must be notified within thirty days of the results of screening.

Stage 3- Assessment for Identification

Assessment strategies provide additional data necessary for an identification decision and the delivery of services. Strategies for additional assessment include the individual and group-testing requirements of Sections 3324.01-3324.07 of the Ohio Revised Code; and as described in this handbook.

Once additional assessment has been completed, the data obtained throughout the stages of identification are evaluated, the identification decision is made and student's educational needs are determined.

REFERRALS

The district ensures there are ample and appropriate scheduling procedures for assessments and reassessment using:

- Group Tests;
- Individually- administered Tests;
- Audition, Performance; Display of Work;
- Exhibition;
- Checklist

Children may be referred on an ongoing basis, based on the following:

- Child Request (self-referral)
- Teacher recommendation
- Parent/Guardian Request
- Child referral of peer
- Other (e.g., psychologist, community member, principal, Coordinator of Gifted Services, etc.)

Referral forms are available from the Coordinator of Gifted Services or the main office of any school building.

The district shall provide at least two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other children.

Upon receipt of a referral, the Coordinator of Gifted Services will seek written parent/guardian permission to perform further assessment of the student. After permission is granted, the Coordinator of Gifted Services will make arrangements with the student's school to perform the assessment. Parents and appropriate school personnel will be informed of the results in writing within thirty days.

INSTRUMENTS USED BY THE DISTRICT FOR SCREENING/IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED STUDENTS

All selections are from the Ohio list of approved instruments:

SUPERIOR COGNITIVE ABILITY

Cognitive Abilities Test, Form 5 (given in grade 2 district wide)

Raven Progressive Matrices- standard form

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 3rd ed. (WISC III)

Iowa Test of Basic Skills

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY

Iowa Test of Basic Skills

Woodcock Johnson Revised Achievement Battery

CREATIVE THINKING ABILITY

Cognitive Abilities Test, Form 5

Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES)

VISUAL AND/OR PERFORMING ARTS

Display of work in art or music/Ohio Department of Education Rubric

Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students- Art (V), Drama (VII), Music, (VI)

Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES)

The district accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for the use by the state of Ohio Department of Education provided by other school districts and/or trained personnel outside school district.

The district ensures that any child transferring into the district will be assessed within ninety days of the transfer at the request of the parent. Parents should contact the building principal or the Coordinator of Gifted Services for information.

The district ensures an equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive services offered by the district.