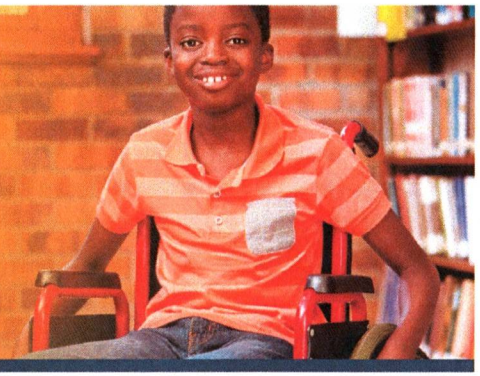
# Ohio
## Gifted Education
## Quick Start Guide



| | Parents Start Here | | Educators Start Here | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | I want to have my child tested for gifted identification. | • Contact your child's teacher and make a formal referral for gifted identification testing.<br>• School districts are required to provide two opportunities per year for testing based on referrals for students in kindergarten through grade 12. | I just received a referral for gifted identification testing. | • Contact your district's gifted coordinator to make sure you follow the district's referral process correctly.<br>• School districts are required to provide two opportunities per year for testing based on referrals for students in kindergarten through grade 12. |
| 2. | I received a letter that states my child was identified as gifted. Now, I have questions about gifted services. | • Contact your district and ask for the gifted coordinator.<br>• Ask for the specific eligibility criteria for any formal gifted services offered by the district.<br>• Districts are currently not required to provide gifted services, but where services are available districts must have objective, written eligibility criteria. | Who can provide gifted services in my district? | • Page 4 of the Gifted EMIS Data Tool on the Ohio Department of Education website has a quick summary of the most common service options. |
| 3. | My child needs advanced work but no gifted services are available. | • Contact your district's gifted coordinator and the building principal to make a referral for acceleration.<br>• Students can be accelerated in one or multiple subjects.<br>• Ask for a copy of your district's Acceleration Policy. | I have a question about obtaining gifted licensure or a gifted supplemental license. | • Contact ODE Educator Licensure at 877-644-6338 or educator.licensure@education.ohio.gov. |

Ohio Department of Education

# Gifted Education in Ohio
## *Facts for Parents*

### Who is "Gifted" in Ohio?

Gifted students are defined in the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01) as those who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment.

### Identification

All public schools in Ohio, with the exception of "community schools," are required to identify gifted students in kindergarten through grade 12. Students are identified as gifted in one or more of four major categories: superior cognitive ability; specific academic ability; creative thinking ability; and visual or performing arts ability. There are four fields included in specific academic ability: mathematics; science; social studies; and reading or writing, or a combination of these two skills.

Identification is accomplished by using scores on approved performance assessments and nationally normed tests. The identification requirements as defined in state statute for each category are listed below:

| Superior Cognitive Ability | Specific Academic Ability | Creative Thinking Ability | Visual or Performing Arts Ability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Score two standard deviations above the mean minus the standard error of measurement on an intelligence test; perform at or above the 95th percentile on a basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test; or attain an approved score on an above grade-level standardized, nationally normed test. | Perform at or above the 95th percentile at the national level on a standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field. A child may be identified as gifted in more than one specific academic ability field. | Score one standard deviation above the mean minus the standard error of measurement on an intelligence test and attain a sufficient score, as established by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), on a test of creative ability or a checklist of creative behavior. | Demonstrate to a trained individual through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area and attain a sufficient score, as established by ODE, on a checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area. |

### Referring Your Child for Screening

Parents have the right to request that their child be screened for possible gifted identification. This request is known as a referral. Parents should receive information on making a referral upon request. Districts will provide two opportunities for such testing each year. Testing should be provided in children's native languages and take into account accommodations that may be necessary for students with disabilities so that the results accurately reflect the children's aptitude

or achievement levels. Also for gifted identification purposes, districts will honor qualifying scores on approved tests administered within the last 24 months by a licensed school psychologist or psychologist in private practice.

Once children are identified as gifted by an Ohio public school, they are considered identified as gifted in any other Ohio public school. Therefore, when moving from one Ohio school district to another, parents should make sure the former district notifies the new school that their child is gifted and also transfers the child's gifted identification information.

For details on gifted screening and identification procedures in your child's school, contact the district's gifted coordinator or the building principal and request a copy of the district's "gifted identification plan."

**Services for Gifted Students**

Districts are required to identify gifted students. However, school districts are not required to provide gifted education services. Currently, the state provides school districts with partial funding for identifying gifted students and employing or contracting gifted education staff.

It is recommended that districts provide a "continuum of services" to serve the diverse needs of gifted students. School district may use a variety of approaches to address the unique learning needs of gifted students, including: offering advanced courses; enrichment programs in "resource rooms;" differentiated instruction in regular classrooms with support from a gifted intervention specialist; and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Services also may include individualized opportunities such as mentorships, internships and educational options. Districts that provide gifted services must provide equitable access to those services based on written criteria. For information about gifted service offerings and placement criteria, contact the school principal or district gifted coordinator.

All gifted education services provided to a student are guided by a Written Education Plan (WEP). The WEP should describe the services to be provided to the student, identify who will provide these services, establish learning goals and evaluation methods, and set a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision. Districts are required to provide a current copy of the WEP to the gifted student's parents and to designate on the WEP all staff providing gifted services to the student. Districts also are required to provide parents with periodic reports on the effectiveness of the services prescribed on the WEP.

All districts must provide opportunities for academic acceleration, including early entrance to kindergarten, whole grade acceleration ("grade skipping"), acceleration in individual subject areas and early high school graduation. Parents considering acceleration should contact the district gifted coordinator or their child's principal for information about referring the child for evaluation. Parents have the right to request screening and to participate in the evaluation process.

Many gifted high school students can benefit from the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO), which allows high school students to take courses from community colleges, colleges and universities. Often, these students can simultaneously earn high school and college credit. School guidance counselors can provide more information about PSEO.

**Getting Help and Information**

If a gifted coordinator serves your district, he or she will likely be the best source of current information about gifted services, identification procedures and other opportunities for gifted students in your district. If your district is not served by a gifted coordinator, your child's principal or guidance counselor can likely provide information about local opportunities, policies and procedures.

Many districts also have organized groups for parents so they can learn strategies and opportunities from each other to meet their gifted children's special needs, and work collaboratively to support and improve local gifted education. Ask your gifted coordinator whether there is a parent group active in your community.

If you are not satisfied with decisions made about gifted screening or placements in gifted services, you have a right to an appeal. Ask your gifted coordinator or a district official for information about local appeals policies and procedures. Parents who believe that their district has violated the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students also may submit a written complaint to the Ohio Department of Education. Please see the resource section below for information on complaint procedures.

The Ohio Department of Education also has gifted education consultants who can provide technical assistance to districts and answer questions from parents about rights and responsibilities, state-sponsored opportunities for gifted children and academic acceleration. Gifted education consultants at ODE can be reached by sending an e-mail message to: gifted@education.ohio.gov or by calling (614) 466-2650.

**Resources on the Web**

The ODE Web site contains many useful documents for parents. To access each page from the home page at http://www.ode.state.oh.us, type the keywords below in the site search box. Following is a list of commonly accessed materials and the keyword for finding them online.

| Web Page Name | Search Term |
|---|---|
| Gifted Operating Standards | ***gifted operating standards*** |
| Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners | ***acceleration*** |
| Identification: Who is Gifted in Ohio by Law and Rule? | ***gifted law*** |
| Written Education Plans (WEPs) for Gifted Students | ***WEP*** |
| Handbooks for Identification of Students Who Are Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts | ***gifted arts*** |
| Educating Gifted Students with Disabilities: The Twice Exceptional Guide | ***twice exceptional*** |
| Complaint Procedures for Gifted Education | ***gifted complaints*** |
| Cutoff Scores for the Identification of Gifted Students Using Assessment Instruments Approved for Above-Grade-Level Testing | ***gifted cut-off*** |
| Chart of Approved Assessment Instruments for Gifted Screening and Identification | ***gifted assessment*** |

**Additional Information**

Parents also may find useful information on the following Web sites. Please note that these sites are not affiliated with ODE, and the Department is not responsible for their content.

- Ohio Association for Gifted Children: http://www.oagc.com/
- National Association for Gifted Children: http://www.nagc.org/
- National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented: http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/NRCGT.html
- Midwest Talent Search - Center for Talent Development: http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/
- Belin-Blank Center: http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/