



WAYNE LOCAL
SCHOOLS

Gifted Handbook

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625 Dayton Road, Waynesville, OH 45068

DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS & SERVICE PLAN FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE GIFTED

Wayne Local Schools recognizes the right of all students to receive educational experiences commensurate with their needs by providing opportunities for the development of intellectual and creative talents. Educational programs should provide for individual differences in students, addressing their unique needs and opportunities to reach their full potential.

Gifted students, like all students, have unique needs. Flexibility must exist to allow them to grow at their own rate, regardless of chronological age or grade placement. Academic subjects and the arts are appropriately taught in a manner that allows gifted students to learn at their instructional level and at their own pace. Appropriate learning experiences are offered through a variety of program opportunities, instructional strategies, and materials to promote diversity in their educational experiences.

In Wayne Local Schools, the needs of students who are gifted are met through a continuum of services and strategies. Parents are viewed as partners who can help by seeking opportunities outside the school day to further enrich the students' experiences. Many of the academic and social needs of students who are gifted are addressed within the general education classroom. Practices such as flexible grouping, differentiated instruction, enrichment activities, honors classes and advanced placement classes may be used to meet identified students' needs within the context of the school day. Subject and grade level acceleration may be used to meet the needs of students as well.

Wayne Local Schools offer students extra-curricular enrichment opportunities. Students have the opportunity to participate in academic and athletic competitions, service organizations, dramatic productions, and interest based clubs.

WLS educators, who are designated providers of gifted education services, receive high-quality professional development in gifted education. This professional development meets eight gifted education competencies. Educators also receive ongoing support from an educator with gifted licensure or endorsement.

DEFINITION OF GIFTED

"Gifted" is defined as 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 Section 3324.01- 07 of the Ohio Revised Code. Ohio's operating standards for identifying and servicing gifted and talented students requires that all school districts screen and identify gifted students in kindergarten through grade twelve who meet specific Ohio Department of Education criteria. In Ohio, students may be identified as gifted in one or more of the following areas: Superior Cognitive Ability, Specific Academic Ability, Creative Thinking Ability, and Visual or Performing Arts Ability. Once a student has received a qualifying score and is identified as gifted, they are always identified in that area.

PROCESS FOR GIFTED IDENTIFICATION

Wayne Local Schools provides opportunities for testing either through whole grade screening and/or the individual referral process. Whole grade screening in the areas of superior cognitive ability and specific academic ability are administered at least once during grade levels K-2 and at least once again within grades 3-6. If a student meets Ohio's criteria for gifted identification in the screening stage, no further testing is required.

When screening results are not conclusive, the student moves to the next stage of the identification process, called assessment. During the assessment phase, the student is given an additional opportunity to test for gifted identification. Only students who score at or above Wayne Local Schools cut-off score, but below the state identification score, will be "assessed" (i.e., re-tested) for gifted identification.

Students may be referred for gifted testing by submitting a WLS Referral Form to the Gifted Coordinator. Referrals may be made by the student, a parent and/or a teacher. Upon receipt of the referral, Wayne Local Schools will follow the testing process as outlined in this information. Parents will be notified of the screening or assessment and identification results.

Students who enter the district during the school year are eligible for testing for possible gifted identification. If students come with current, qualifying scores on any state-approved tests, these scores may be used; and no further testing would be necessary. If the student arrives in the district without identifying scores, a family may request that tests be administered to the child. The district will complete requested testing within 90 days.

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS USED FOR GIFTED IDENTIFICATION

Wayne Local Schools uses the following testing instruments for screening and identification. WLS makes every effort to ensure that tests reflect accurate aptitude/achievement in students with physical and/or sensory disabilities, that assessments used are valid for special populations, and that students are administered tests in their native language when possible. All tests are administered by qualified personnel.

Area	Test	Grade	Screen	Identification
Superior Cognitive Ability	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Form 7	2 and 5 whole grade testing K-12 by referral	127	128
Specific Academic Ability (reading and math)	Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) Form E	2 whole grade testing K-12 by referral	94th percentile	95th percentile
	Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) 3 times yearly	5 - 10 whole grade testing	94th percentile	95th percentile
Creative Thinking Ability	CogAT AND Gifted & Talented Evaluation Scales 2 (GATES 2)	By referral only	CogAT: 110 GATES 2: 48	CogAT: 112 GATES 2: 51
Visual Arts	Gifted & Talented Evaluation Scales 2 (GATES 2) AND ODEW Visual Arts Rubric	By referral only	GATES 2: 48 ODEW Rubric: 16-20	GATES 2: 51 ODEW Rubric: 21-24

All areas of identification may be assessed using any district approved instruments from the ODEW List of Approved Assessments.

GIFTED SERVICES

Once a student is identified as gifted in any area, the student is included on a district report to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and parents are notified. It is important to note that, according to Ohio law, school districts are only required to identify but not serve students who have been identified as gifted (Ohio does not mandate services for gifted students). Wayne Local Schools is committed to providing a continuum of services to our gifted students. In each service setting, classroom teachers will differentiate instruction to meet the needs of gifted students.

Grades K-5: Students with a superior cognitive ability, reading and/or math gifted identification will be placed in regular classrooms with appropriate cluster grouping.

Grades 6-8: Students with a superior cognitive ability, reading and/or math gifted identification will be placed in either advanced courses or regular classrooms with appropriate cluster grouping.

Grades 9-12: Students with a superior cognitive ability, reading and/or math gifted identification may be served in regular classrooms with cluster grouping, honors courses, Advanced Placement classes and College Credit Plus opportunities.

All students in grades 6-12 who are identified in Visual Arts will be served by a trained arts instructor when the student elects to take art classes.

WRITTEN EDUCATION PLAN (WEP)

All students receiving gifted services will have a WEP on file. At the beginning of the school year, classroom teachers will write the WEP to include:

- A description of services provided
- Goals for the students in each gifted area
- Methods for evaluating the student's progress toward each goal
- Staff responsible for ensuring delivery of each service

Written Education Plans are provided to parents. Each student is evaluated by his/her classroom teacher according to the goals in the WEP. The teacher will produce a WEP Progress Report on those goals at the end of the first semester and/or at the end of the school year.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Parents have an opportunity to appeal any decision regarding the results of any screening procedure, scheduling of children for assessment, or placement of children in gifted services. Parents should submit a letter to the Director of Student Services outlining the nature of the concern. A meeting will be scheduled with the parents which may include other school personnel. The Director of Student Services will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SERVICE

Wayne Local Schools may recommend a student withdraw from gifted services based on objective criteria. If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted services, the request should be written by the parent to the Gifted Coordinator. Waiver of gifted services is good for one school year.

ACCELERATION

All students, including those who have been identified as gifted, are eligible to be tested and considered for acceleration. Refer to the WLS Acceleration Manual for details.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more about the gifted program and services in Wayne Local Schools, please visit www.wayne-local.com and click on Resources and then Gifted Services.

You may also contact Karen Boggs, Gifted Coordinator, at kboggs@waynelocal.net, or Kevin Wright, Director of Student Services, at kwright@waynelocal.net.