

PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

In accordance with the belief that all children are entitled to education commensurate with their particular needs, children in the District who are gifted are provided opportunities to progress as their abilities permit. The Board believes that these children require services beyond those offered in regular school programs in order to realize their potential contribution to themselves and society.

Children who are gifted are identified annually by qualified professionals using a variety of assessment procedures. The Board encourages efforts to provide services for the children who are gifted as an integral part of the total kindergarten through grade 12 program.

Identification

The District follows the identification eligibility criteria as specified in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) .

1. The District identifies children of the District, in grades kindergarten through 12, as gifted children who perform at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to other children of the same age, experience and environment, as identified under the Ohio Revised Code (RC) and OAC. Accordingly, a child can be identified as exhibiting:
 - A. superior cognitive ability;
 - B. specific academic ability in one or more of the following content areas:
 - 1) mathematics;
 - 2) science;
 - 3) reading, writing or a combination of these skills and/or
 - 4) social studies;
 - C. creative thinking ability and/or
 - D. visual or performing arts ability such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance or drama.
2. The District uses only those instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted.

District Plan for Identifying Gifted Students

The District adopts and submits to ODE a plan for the screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted. Any revisions to the District plan are submitted to ODE for approval.

The identification plan includes the following:

1. the criteria and methods the District uses to screen and select children for further assessment who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in one of the gifted areas;
2. the sources of assessment data the District uses to select children for further testing and an explanation to parents/guardians of the multiple assessment instruments required to identify children who are gifted;
3. an explanation for parents/guardians of the methods the District uses to ensure equal access to screening and further assessment by all District children, culturally and linguistically diverse children, children from low socioeconomic backgrounds, children with disabilities and children for whom English is a second language;
4. the process of notifying parents/guardians regarding all policies and procedures concerning the screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted;
5. an opportunity for parents/guardians 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 or for receipt of services;
6. procedures for the assessment of children who transfer into the District;
7. 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 and
8. an explanation that the District accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for use by ODE that are provided by other school districts and trained personnel outside the District.

The District's plan may provide for the District to contract with any qualified public or private service provider to provide screening or assessment services under the plan. Gifted education coordinators provide the District with assistance in placing students, designing services, consulting on strategic planning, evaluating services on an ongoing basis and eliciting input from parents and staff.

District Plan for Services

The District adopts and submits to ODE a plan for a continuum of services that may be offered to students who are gifted.

1. The District ensures equal opportunity for all children identified as gifted to receive any or all services offered by the District.
2. The District implements a procedure for withdrawal of children from District gifted programs or services and for reassessment of children.
3. The District implements a procedure for resolving disputes with regard to identification and placement decisions.
4. Any District gifted education services are delivered in accordance with the RC and the OAC.
5. The District informs parents of the contents of this policy as required by the RC and the OAC.

Written Education Plan

The District provides gifted services based on the student's areas(s) of identification and individual needs and is guided by a written education plan (WEP). The WEP, which is provided to parents of gifted students and educators responsible for providing gifted education services, includes a description of the services provided, including goals for the student in each service specified, methods for evaluating progress toward achieving the goals specified and methods and schedule for reporting progress to students. The WEP also specifies staff members responsible for ensuring that specified services are delivered, policies regarding the waiver of assignments and the scheduling of tests missed while a student is participating in any gifted services provided outside the general education classroom and a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision.

Gifted Education Personnel

Gifted education instruction is provided by gifted education intervention specialists by grade level in accordance with the OAC. Gifted education instruction is offered during the regular school day and may be provided in large or small groups and/or individually in a variety of settings. The depth, breadth and pace of instruction based on the appropriate content areas may be differentiated. Where differentiated instruction is provided in a regular classroom, the teacher is either licensed in gifted education or has received professional development and ongoing assistance from a gifted education intervention specialist or gifted education coordinator.

Annual Report and Accountability

The District submits, as required, a gifted education annual report to ODE.

The District submits, as required, a gifted education data audit to ODE.

The Superintendent/designee implements all policies and procedures in accordance with laws, rules and regulations and follows the OAC rules regarding gifted education.

[Adoption date: August 21, 2014]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3324.01 et seq.
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REF.: JB, Equal Educational Opportunities