

West Branch Local Schools

Policy and Plan for the Identification and Service of Children who are Gifted

DEFINITION OF GIFTED

"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.

DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION PLAN

West Branch accepts referrals, screens and identifies, or screens and reassesses students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of **superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability**, and/or **visual and/or performing arts**. West Branch follows policy and procedures established in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15. These rules specify that assessment instruments must come from the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

Superior Cognitive Ability

Assessments West Branch administers that provide for superior cognitive identification:

Woodcock Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities - 4th Edition Screen = 125, ID = 127 In View Cognitive Ability Assessment Grades 2-12 Screen = 125, ID = 128	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - 7th Edition Screen = 125/126 ID= 127/128 Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children - 5th Edition Screen = 124 ID= 126
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Specific Academic Ability

Assessments West Branch administers that provide for specific academic identification:

Stanford Achievement Test - 10th Edition Screen = 93rd percentile, ID = 95th percentile NWEA MAP Growth Grades 2-10 Screen = 93rd percentile, ID = 95th percentile	The Iowa Assessments - Form E Screen = 93rd percentile, ID = 95th percentile Woodcock Johnson IV Test of Achievement Screen = 93rd percentile, ID = 95th percentile
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Creative Thinking Ability

Assessments West Branch administers that provide for creative thinking identification:

Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS) Screen = 48-50, ID = 51 & above	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - 7th Edition Grades K-1: Screen = 111 Grades 2-12: Screen = 112
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Visual and Performing Arts

Assessments West Branch administers that provide for visual and performing arts identification:

Ohio Department of Education Rubric Screen = 14 (Instrumental Music), 14 (Vocal Music), 20 (Dance), 16 (Drama), 16 (Visual Art) ID = 18 (Instrumental Music), 18 (Vocal Music), 26 (Dance), 20 (Drama), 21 (Visual Art)	Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS) <i>Musical: Part VI; Dramatic: Part VII; Artistic: Part V</i> Screen = 37 (Musical), 54 (Drama), 59 (Artistic) ID = 39 (Musical), 57 (Drama), 62 (Artistic)
Gifted & Talented Evaluation Scales 2 (GATES 2) Screen = 57-77, ID = 78	

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

West Branch provides at least two opportunities each year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other children.

West Branch ensures there are ample and appropriate scheduling procedures for assessments and reassessment using:

Type of Assessment	Content Area(s)	Grade Level(s)
Whole-grade tests	Superior Cognitive, Specific Academic: Reading and Math	2&5 Superior Cognitive 2-10 Reading and Math
Individually-administered tests & small-group	Superior Cognitive, Specific Academic: Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Creative Thinking	K-12
Audition, performance	Visual & Performing Arts	K-12
Display of work	Visual & Performing Arts	K-12
Exhibition	Visual & Performing Arts	K-12
Checklists	Creative Thinking and Visual & Performing Arts	K-12

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Referrals

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

- Child request (self-referral);
- Teacher recommendation;
- Parent/guardian request;
- Child referral of peer; and
- Other (e.g., psychologist, community members, principal, gifted coordinator, etc.)

Upon receipt of a referral, the district will:

- Follow the process as outlined in this brochure; and
- Notify parents of results of screening or assessment and identification within 30 days.

Referrals submitted between August and the last week of October will be assessed during November and December. Referrals submitted between December and the last week of February will be assessed during March and April.

Screening

West Branch ensures equal access to screening and further assessment of all district children, including culturally or linguistically diverse children, children from low socio-economic backgrounds, children with disabilities and children for whom English is a second language.

Identification

When the screening assessment has been completed, if the data obtained is from an approved identification instrument and the score meets cut-off scores specified in department of education guidance, the identification decision is made and student's educational needs are determined. Identification scores remain in effect for the remainder of the student's K-12 school experience.

Reassessment

When the screening assessment has been completed, if the data is from an approved screening instrument or from an identification instrument on which the student is within a district-specified range below the identification score, re-assessment for possible identification occurs.

Out of District Scores

West Branch accepts scores, completed within the preceding 24 months on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education, provided by other schools and/or trained personnel outside the school district.

Transfer

West Branch ensures that any child transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent. Parents shall contact the building principal.

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Appeal Procedure

An appeal by the parent is the reconsideration of the result of any part of the identification process which would include:

- Screening procedure or assessment instrument (which results in identification);
- The scheduling of children for assessment;
- The placement of a student in any program; and
- Receipt of services.

Parents should submit a letter to the superintendent or designee outlining the nature of the concern.

The superintendent or designee will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel. The superintendent or designee will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice should include the reason for the decision(s).

DISTRICT SERVICE PLAN

West Branch ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive any services offered by the district for which the student meets the criteria.

District Name for Service	Service Setting	Grade Level(s)	Criteria for Service	Service Provider
Gifted Service: English Language Arts	Regular Classroom with Cluster Group	3-12	Superior Cognitive AND/OR Reading Identification Students who obtain an identification in Superior Cognitive Ability OR Reading qualify for services.	General Education English teacher delivers instruction
Gifted Service: Math	Regular Classroom with Cluster Group	3-12	Superior Cognitive AND/OR Math Identification Students who obtain an identification in Superior Cognitive Ability OR Math qualify for services.	General Education Math teacher delivers instruction
Gifted Service: Acceleration	Regular Classroom with Acceleration	K-11	Superior Cognitive AND/OR Related Content Identification	General Education Classroom Teacher

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Written Education Plans

When students identified as gifted are reported to parents and the Ohio Department of Education as served, they must have a Written Education Plan in compliance with the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students.

Withdrawal

If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services the request should be written by the parent or child to the building administrator. If children request to withdraw, parents will be notified.

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT PLAN

Enrichments are activities purposely designed to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, issues, occupations, hobbies, persons, places and/or events. They may expand the scope of the regular curriculum or introduce topics not covered in the general education program. Any staff member may be the originator of enrichment, and the student audience will vary depending on interest and ability. Enrichments are not reported to the Ohio Department of Education as gifted services.

IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE PLAN APPROVAL

District identification and service plans must be sent to the Ohio Department of Education as a part of the annual self-report. The department will review the plans within 60 days of submission. Changes in identification and/or service plan procedures must be reported to the Ohio Department of Education immediately upon revision. The department will review and notify the district within 60 days of receipt of revisions.

If you have questions, please call your building principal or

Angeline Theis

West Branch Director of Instructional Programming

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