

**Berkshire Local Schools Policy and Plan  
for the Identification and Service  
of Children Who Are Gifted**

**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), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION PLAN**

The district 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. The district must follow policy and procedures established in Ohio Administrative Code 33015115. These rules specify that assessment instruments must come from the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

**Superior Cognitive Ability**

Assessments the district administers that provide for superior cognitive identification (provide at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

- Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat),
  - Gr. K/2 127
  - Gr. 3 128
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 5th Edition (WISC V) 127

**Creative Thinking Ability**

Assessments the district administers that provide for creative thinking identification (provided at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

- Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES)
  - Creative Thinking: Section IV, Items 2130; Ages 7-18 ID 83 or above
- Gifted Rating Scales (GRS) (Creative Scale)
  - Ages 7-18 ID=66 and above
- VQN of 112; grades 2-12

### **Specific Academic Ability**

Assessments the district administers that provide for specific academic identification (provide at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

- Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA) - Common Core State Standards
  - Alignment of Reading and Math at the 95th Percentile or above
- Woodcock Johnson

### **Visual and Performing Arts**

Assessments the district administers that provide for visual and performing arts identification (provide at least two for each arts area for assessment and reassessment purposes):

- Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES)
  - Visual or Performing Arts: Section IV, Items 4150) Ages 7 – 18 ID 83 or above
- Ohio Department of Education Rubric for Scoring Visual Art/Music/Drama/Dance Performance

### **IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

The district shall provide 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. The district 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	Math and Reading	2,3,5,7,9-12
Individually-administered tests	ELA/Math	All grade levels
Audition, performance	ELA/Math	All grade levels
Display of work	ELA/Math	All grade levels
Exhibition	ELA/Math	All grade levels
Checklists	ELA/Math	All grade levels

## **REFERRAL**

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.

## **SCREENING**

The district ensures equal access to screening and further assessment of 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. 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**

The district 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**

The district 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.

## **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**

The district 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.

<b>District Name for Service</b>	<b>Service Setting</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Criteria for Service</b>	<b>Service Provider</b>
Berkshire Local Schools	Guidance Services	All grade levels	Referral for support	Guidance
Berkshire Local Schools	Regular Classroom with Acceleration	All grade levels	COGAT/MAP	General Education Teacher
Berkshire Local Schools	Regular Classroom AP	9-12	Performance on assessments and teacher recommendation per board policy	General Education Teacher

Berkshire Local Schools	CCP	7-12	Per board approved policy guidelines	General Education Teacher/College Professor
Berkshire Local Schools	Regular Classroom Honors	7-12	Performance on assessments and teacher recommendation per board policy	General Education Teacher
Berkshire Local Schools	Regular classroom with a teacher that has the state required 15 hours of gifted in-service	K-12	To offer differentiation of materials to accelerated and superior cognitive students in a typical setting	General Education Teacher

### **Written Education Plans(WEP)**

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.

### **Written Acceleration Plan(WAP)**

Students that meet the subject acceleration criteria of having a MAP score in the 95% or above and receive an advanced score on the AIR test can qualify as an advanced student. A Written Acceleration Plan(WAP) is created in the area of strength and is sent home for parent signature. The student can access grade level advanced or more challenging subject area material with this designation.

### **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.

**Reviewed 6/6/2022**