

Gifted Identification

Frequently Asked Questions, OLS Gifted Services

What are the qualifications for academic gifted identification?

The state of Ohio sets the criteria for gifted identification. Students are identified as academically gifted with:

- An ability score of 128 or above on the CogAT assessment in 2nd and 6th grade or a 127 or above in 3rd grade, or other Ohio Department of Education approved assessment with a qualifying score
 - OR
- A percentile of 95 or above on the reading, math, science, and/or social studies on the Iowa Assessment

What are the qualifications for creative thinking identification?

The state of Ohio sets the criteria for gifted identification. Students are identified as gifted in creative thinking with:

- An ability score of 112 or above on the CogAT assessment
 - AND
- A score of 51 or above on the Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS) – Part II Creativity Characteristics

What does gifted identification mean?

In Ohio, “gifted” means 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 Division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code. Olentangy is proud to have many students who receive at least one qualifying national test score for gifted identification. Recent scores are communicated to your child's classroom teacher to help them make appropriate instructional decisions and maximize their learning. All identified gifted students receive instruction in the classroom from their classroom teacher with support from the Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS). The GIS works behind the scenes with the classroom teacher to provide materials and resources for differentiating subject matter for students. Your child will receive differentiated instruction from the classroom teacher as needed, as shown by his/her classroom performance. Please be aware that supports will look different from year to year as your child advances through grade levels and academic needs progress.

Does my child have to receive a qualifying score each year to remain identified?

Once your child has received a qualifying score in a subject area and is identified as gifted, they are always identified in that subject area.

When are the assessments given?

Whole grade assessments in all subjects are completed in the spring of 2nd, 3rd, and 6th grades. Parents and teachers may refer students for additional gifted assessment opportunities and potential identification.

Direct Gifted Services

How do students qualify for direct gifted services?

Direct gifted services are provided to students beginning in grade 3.

Not all identified gifted students qualify for direct gifted services. Direct services are provided to students who demonstrate the highest level of academic and cognitive need.

In grades 3-5, students qualify for direct gifted services with both:

- A qualifying cognitive skills index score listed above on the CogAT,
AND

- A percentile of 95 or above on the reading and/or math portion of the Iowa Assessments Complete

In grades 6-12, students qualify for direct gifted services with both:

- A qualifying cognitive skills index score listed above on the CogAT,
AND
- A percentile of 95 or above on the reading, math, science and/or social studies on the Iowa Assessments

What do direct gifted services look like?

Gifted programming enhances cognitive, content, research and communication skills by providing challenging opportunities through a differentiated curriculum. Direct gifted services are delivered in Reading and Math to students in grades 3- 5 and in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies to students in grades 6-12. In these subject areas, students are deliberately grouped in classrooms and placed with teachers who receive ongoing support and professional development in gifted education from a gifted specialist. In these classrooms, teachers will provide a variety of instructional extensions in various settings to help maximize your child's learning. Please be aware that services will look different from year to year as your child advances through grade levels.

When will any new direct gifted services begin?

Any new areas of gifted services from spring assessments will start at the start of next school year. Previous areas of direct gifted services will continue without interruption.

Are there any gifted services at the high school level?

Gifted services at the high school are delivered through course selection. Olentangy offers many honors and elective courses to challenge students academically and meet areas of interest and talent. We also offer 21 AP courses, dual enrollment, and College Credit Plus options for students to potentially earn early college credits. Students may also pursue mentorship programs to gain hands on career experience outside the classroom. Olentangy also has many extracurricular and athletic opportunities that meet the academic and social interests of gifted students. The district has a Gifted Intervention Specialist at the high school level to provide ongoing professional development, resources, and enrichment strategies to our AP teachers.

What services are provided to students identified in VPA and/or creative thinking?

While there is no direct service for students identified as gifted in the visual and performing arts or creative thinking, the identification process serves several important purposes. Students have the opportunity to be evaluated by professionals in their talent area and receive feedback about their performance. Parents are notified of the level of student identification and the results can help parents determine enrichment or extracurricular focus for students. Teachers are notified of the results and can differentiate their classroom instruction to better meet the needs of identified students in the classroom, as well as direct additional enrichment opportunities to students who have demonstrated strengths in the arts.

Where can I find more information about OLS gifted services?

You may visit the district website at [Olentangy Gifted Services](#)

You may also contact the gifted specialist at your child's building for specific information about how direct gifted services will be delivered.

Are there other resources available for parents of gifted children?

There are many wonderful resources to learn more about gifted learners and their unique needs. You may visit:

[The National Association for Gifted Children](#)

[The Ohio Association for Gifted Children](#)

[Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted](#)

[Ohio Department of Education-Gifted Education](#)