Parent Handbook: Gifted Children Identification and Service in Granville Exempted Village Schools



Granville Exempted Village Schools 130 N. Granger St. Granville, OH 43023

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Gifted Definition	3
Identification Process	3
Referrals	3
Special Populations	4
Retesting	5
Transfer Students	5
Assessment Areas and Instruments Used	5
Superior Cognitive Ability	6
Specific Academic Ability	6
Visual or Performing Arts	6
Creative Thinking Ability	6
Gifted Service Plan	7
Self-contained Gifted Classrooms	7
Specific Content Area Classrooms	8
Cluster Grouping.	8
Advanced Courses	9
Continuum of Services Offered.	9
Adjusting or Withdrawing from Services	10
Written Education Plan (WEP)	10
Acceleration Service Plan	10
District-Initiated Acceleration	11
Subject Acceleration Process	12
Whole-Grade Acceleration Process	13
Written Acceleration Plan (WAP)	13
Early Entrance (EEK) Service Plan	14
Appeal Procedure	15
GEVSD Gifted and Acceleration Policies	15
Referral, Assessment and EEK Permission Forms	16
Gifted Learners vs. Bright Students	24
Myths About Gifted Students	25
Web Sites for Gifted Students, Parents and Educators	26
Glossary of Terms	27

I. Gifted Defined

Gifted students in Ohio are defined in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3324.01 as "those 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 ORC Section 3324.03."

II. Identification Process

REFERRALS

Children may be referred on an ongoing basis; based on the following:

- Referral from a parent, guardian, staff member, the student, or the student's peer
- Others familiar with a student's potential or performance (e.g., psychologist, school counselor, principal, gifted coordinator, community member)
- Performance on district-wide standardized tests of ability and achievement

The Granville Exempted Village School District (GEVSD) uses a three-part approach to screen students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the area of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creativity, and/or visual/performing arts. This process is detailed in the diagrams that follow.

STAGE I: Screening

Screening examines data gathered from the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Terra Nova/InView assessments. MAP is administered to all students in the District three times per year in grades K-6, and in reading only in grades 7 and 8. The Terra Nova is administered in science and/or social studies in grades 2-6.

The District determined cut-off scores that move students from screening to assessment may be lower than the scores necessary for identification. This approach minimizes the opportunity for a potentially gifted student to go unidentified. This process aims to *include*, rather than *exclude*, students in the screening pool for identification. Parents must be notified within 30 days of receipt of the results of the screening and notify the school principal if further assessment is desired.

Assessment and reassessment is an ongoing process in the Granville Exempted Village School District. Whole-grade screening for superior cognitive identification is done in 2nd and 3rd grade using the InView assessment. Whole-grade screening for specific academic identification using the Terra Nova test will be completed in 2nd and 3rd grade. All referrals for potential identification in creative thinking and/or visual/performing arts are automatically considered using the appropriate instruments. As stated previously, parents must be notified within 30 days of receipt of the screening results and have the right to appeal following appropriate procedures outlined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and located in this handbook.

STAGE II: Assessment

Assessment beyond those administered by the District (MAP, Terra Nova, InView) will be completed by a licensed gifted coordinator or school psychologist. GEVSD may contract with a qualified public or private service provider to administer the assessment services. Once the assessment has been completed, the data obtained through all stages of identification and evaluation are analyzed, and the identification decision is made. Parents will receive notification of results within 30 days of receipt by the district.

GEVSD accepts scores for gifted identification on assessment instruments approved by ODE, including those given by other Ohio school districts or by appropriately trained personnel outside of the District.

STAGE III: Identification, Additional Assessments, or Does Not Qualify

Identification: Students who meet the state criteria for giftedness (ORC 3324.03) are identified. The student's educational needs and services are determined at that point.

Additional Assessments: If the results fall below the state criteria for identification but at or above the District score, additional assessments may be administered at the school, student or parent's request. Parents are notified within 30 days of receipt of assessment results.

Does Not Qualify: The student is not identified if s/he fails to meet the state criteria for identification.

III. Special Populations

The GEVSD makes every attempt to identify gifted students from diverse backgrounds. Students who are from culturally diverse backgrounds, English Language Learners (ELL) students, economically disadvantaged students, homeless students, disabled students, students with physical or sensory disabilities and any other student who may have special circumstances will not be excluded from potential gifted identification in any manner.

Assessment instruments and conditions shall be used that are appropriate for each student on a case by case basis. For example, an ELL student may be assessed using a nonverbal assessment instrument. If necessary, translators shall be secured for students who need that accommodation. All tests used must be on the current *Chart of Approved Gifted Identification and Screening Instruments* from ODE.

IV. Retesting

GEVSD aims to not exclude students in the identification process. Occasionally, another assessment instrument is used when the results from the initial testing are still inconclusive. All parents, at any time, may have an outside trained examiner test a child using instruments approved by ODE at the parents' expense.

Students who have requested assessment or who have been recommended for assessment by teachers, parents, or other children are provided at least two opportunities within a school year. Once a student has been identified, that identification is permanent. A student previously identified as gifted will be re-tested as needed in order to determine eligibility for services. Per parent request, a student may be individually re-assessed.

To discuss retesting, please contact the GEVSD Gifted Service Coordinator at the Licking County ESC (740-349-6084) or the Building Principal.

V. Transfer Students

Any student transferring into the District will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent. This request can be made in writing to either the Building Principal or Gifted Services Coordinator. The Gifted Services Coordinator shall send the parent or guardian a referral form. Results of any assessments will be received within 30 days of testing.

If a student was previously identified in Ohio or another state, parents and/or guardians should contact the Building Principal and assist in gathering identification documents as necessary. GEVSD accepts outside testing data that follows ORC 3324.01-.07. Students who enter the District from out of state have to have been identified by an ODE-approved assessment within the past 24 months. Once a student has been identified in Ohio, there is no need to re-identify a student. Parents are encouraged to share past Written Education Plans (WEP's) and Written Acceleration Plans (WAP's) upon entering the District. Parents or guardians who have any questions about a transfer to GEVSD should call the Assistant Superintendent at 740-587-8186 or the Building Principal where the student will enroll.

VI. Assessment Areas and Instruments Used by the Granville Exempted Village School District for Gifted Identification

GEVSD uses assessment instruments (tests) approved by ODE's *Chart of Approved Gifted Identification and Screening Instruments* for screening and identification for all of the gifted areas below. To ensure that the test results accurately reflect each student's aptitude or achievement level, tests have been included that allow for appropriate screening and identification of students from minority or disadvantaged populations, students with disabilities, and students for whom English is a second language.

The following ability areas are tested for gifted identification using ODE-approved instruments:

SUPERIOR COGNITIVE ABILITY

The student has:

- scored two standard deviations above the mean (minus the standard error of measure) on either an approved individual standardized intelligence test administered by a licensed psychologist or on approved standardized group intelligence test,
- performed at or above the 95th percentile on the composite battery of an approved, nationally normed achievement test, or,
- attained an approved score on one or more above-grade level standardized, nationally normed approved tests.

SPECIFIC CONTENT AREA ABILITY

The student has:

- performed at or above the 95th percentile at the national level on an approved individual standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field (mathematics, science, reading, writing or a combination of both, or social studies),
- performed at or above the 95th percentile at the national level on an approved group standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field.

VISUAL OR PERFORMING ARTS ABILITY

A student shall be identified as exhibiting "visual or performing arts ability" superior to that of children of similar age if the student has done both of the following:

- Demonstrated to a trained individual through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area; and
- Exhibited to a trained individual sufficient performance, as established by the department of education, on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area. These areas are drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance and drama.
 - ONOTE: ODE's Handbooks for Identification of Students Who Are Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts shall be used during the identification process. Only experts in the potential field for identification may assess portfolios and/or performances to ensure quality in identifying superior ability in the arts area(s).

CREATIVE THINKING ABILITY

A student shall be identified as exhibiting "creative thinking ability" superior to children of a similar age if the student scored one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measure, on an ODE-approved individual or group intelligence test and also did either of the following:

- Attained a sufficient score, as established by ODE, on an approved individual or group test of creative ability; or
- Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by ODE, on an approved checklist by a trained individual of creative behaviors.
 - Note: The behavior checklist for creativity should be completed by someone who
 is well-acquainted with the student being evaluated.

VII. Service Plan

The District ensures equal opportunity for all students identified as gifted to receive services offered by the District. Service placement criteria shall be consistently applied as specified in the screening and identification criteria. The same services will be consistently offered at each grade level and all buildings at those grade levels to all qualifying children. The criteria used may not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, disability status, first language or socio-economic status. Placement for District services shall match the service criteria used in determining eligibility. The GEVSD acknowledges that gifted students have diverse needs and aims to offer a continuum of services as appropriate for students.

All gifted services in the GEVSD shall be delivered in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code. Districts are required to identify gifted students. However, school districts are not required to provide gifted education services. Currently, the State of Ohio provides school districts with very limited funding for identifying gifted students and employing or contracting gifted education staff. GEVSD strives to offer a continuum of services to serve the diverse needs of gifted students within the available resources. Services in the GEVSD shall be consistently based on individual ability and achievement scores.

SELF-CONTAINED CLASSROOM SERVICE:

A self-contained classroom is where a district places students in a classroom with other gifted students and a Gifted Intervention Services (GIS) teacher for a time ranging from a single period to an entire day, five days a week. At least one core subject is taught by the GIS. Specials (art, music, etc.) may have students from other classrooms. These students are considered served and will have a WEP. The "Discovery" ELA classes in grades 4-6 are the only example of this service in the District.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELF-CONTAINED CLASSES

Grades 4-6

Students must meet one of the following combinations. Tier I students are considered first, then Tier II students. If the self-contained class is full after any Tier (Tier I or Tier II), a waiting list shall be established. Students within each tier will be ranked by cognitive ability score first and academic achievement score second. Notification of placements will occur by June 15 for the upcoming school year.

Tier I	Tier II
Superior Cognitive Ability Identification and gifted identification in the subject area(s) of the class.	Superior Cognitive Score no less than one standard deviation above the mean on an ODE-approved instrument <i>and</i> gifted identification in the subject area(s) of the class.

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY SERVICE

Kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12):

The GEVSD seeks to identify students who have specific academic ability in math, science, reading, and/or social studies. Advanced courses and gifted student clustering are among the options that serve these students in the District (see below for descriptions of these options). A student who has an aptitude in a specific subject area that is consistently superior in these advanced courses can profit from differentiated instruction and may need subject acceleration if this rigor does not meet their needs.

CLUSTER GROUPING: Cluster grouping involves the intentional placement of groups of gifted students in specific classes (and courses). The placement is designed to match the subject with the area of identification. For example, a student who is gifted in math will only be clustered in their math course but not in a science or language arts course. Teachers of these clustered classes receive ongoing professional development each year in order to provide differentiated and rigorous opportunities for gifted students. Every attempt is made to cluster gifted students, but due to identification of students mid-year and/or student schedule needs, it is not always possible.

In grades 1 and 2, students are clustered in specific classrooms based on reading and math gifted identification. In grades 3 - 6, students in core subjects will be cluster-grouped. At the middle and high school levels, the clustering of gifted students occurs mostly in Advanced and AP courses. Accelerated students are clustered into Advanced courses, which are available in grades 4 - high school.

ADVANCED COURSES: Advanced courses are offered to all students starting in 4th grade. Advanced courses are designed to move at a faster pace and/or cover material more in-depth for students who require a greater challenge than a regular classroom can offer. These courses are not limited to gifted students, but gifted students are recommended for these courses. Advanced courses offer challenge to students who are in need of more, but for whom acceleration is not appropriate. Accelerated students may also be placed into advanced courses. In grades 4 - 6, advanced courses are offered in math. In grades 7 - 8, advanced courses are offered in ELA, math, science, and social studies. In grades 9 - 12, advanced courses are offered in ELA, math, science and social studies courses in addition to a myriad of AP offerings.

CREATIVE THINKING ABILITY AND VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS ABILITY SERVICE

Kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12):

GEVSD seeks to identify students in both creative thinking ability and visual/performing arts. While we do not offer specific services for these areas, we do attempt to assist parents and students who have been identified with educational options or information about special programs specific to a student's identification area.

A CONTINUUM OF SETTINGS AND SERVICES BY GRADE LEVEL

Grade	Services That May Be Provided
	Cluster grouping per student needs based on available data
K - 3	• Early entrance to Kindergarten/1 st grade if appropriate (Written Acceleration
K - 3	Plans for those who qualify)
	Enrichment services with gifted personnel
	 Cluster grouping per student needs based on available data
4 - 6	 Advanced courses offered
	 Self-contained gifted course (ELA Discovery)
	 Advanced courses offered and high school credit courses available
	 Cluster grouping per student needs based on available data
7 - 8	College Credit Plus
	 Internship/mentorship opportunities
	• Educational Options (credit flex, online courses, independent studies, etc.)
	 Honors/AP/Advanced courses
	 College Credit Plus and other dual enrollment opportunities
9 - 12	 Internship/mentorship opportunities
	• Educational Options (credit flex, online courses, independent studies, etc.)
	 Cluster grouping per student needs based on available data
All	Whole grade or single subject acceleration
Grades	Targeted instruction in the general education setting
Grades	Targeted instruction in the general education setting

PARTICIPATION AND ADJUSTING OR WITHDRAWING FROM SERVICES

Although a student is identified as gifted, the decision to participate in any gifted service option always remains with the parent and/or guardian. Once a student has been identified, WEP notifications are sent to the parent and/or guardian. If parents and/or guardians wish to decline services for their student, they should contact the Building Principal where their student attends. If at any time a parent wishes to withdraw his or her student from gifted services, the request should be made in writing to their student's Building Principal as well.

VIII. Written Education Plan (WEP)

A gifted service is a service that conforms to Ohio Operating Standards. Students who are served must have a WEP. They are included in the Educational Management Information System (EMIS) database as receiving gifted services. The WEP documents the adjustments made to the curriculum in a student's area(s) of identification. Ohio's Academic Content Standards recognize that students develop at different rates and clearly state that if the student exceeds grade level indicators, they must be afforded the opportunity to do so. This gives teachers the flexibility to modify or differentiate instruction for students in which the:

- Level is advanced to ensure rigor,
- Pace is adjusted to accommodate faster learning rates,
- Complexity requires students to analyze or integrate several ideas, and
- Depth encourages students to explore a topic in more thoughtful detail.

WEP progress is shared with parents periodically during the school year. It is important to note that the WEP is not an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and does not follow procedures as outlined in federal law for special education.

IX. Acceleration Service Plan

Sometimes a student may need more than what is currently offered in the classroom. If this is the case, typically the parent and/or teachers confer, and then a referral requesting an acceleration evaluation is completed by District personnel. Parents may also call the Building Principal to discuss acceleration questions. It is recommended that acceleration testing be completed by June 15 in order to assist with course placement for the following school year.

Whole-grade and subject acceleration is thoughtfully considered by the acceleration team on a case-by-case basis. *The Iowa Acceleration Scale (3rd ed.)* is used as a tool to guide acceleration teams on appropriate placement.

Subject acceleration is more prevalent in math than the other subjects. For students needing subject acceleration which requires a placement in another building, transportation shall be provided from the student's home school to the school in which service is being delivered. For example, a sixth grade student at the intermediate school may need to take a math class at the middle school. Transportation would be provided to the other building and back to the home intermediate school in order for that student to receive services.

WHO MIGHT NEED ACCELERATION?

- A student with high cognitive ability. The higher the cognitive ability, the greater the need to adjust the curriculum. For example, a student who has a cognitive score of 140 may need enriched, intensive curriculum modifications and/or whole-grade acceleration.
- A student in any grade who already has mastered the curriculum.
- A student strong in math (or another subject) who typically finishes work quickly and consistently performs at the very top of his/her grade level on all assessments.

ACCELERATION INITIATED BY THE DISTRICT

The lack of advanced courses in middle school math is due to the District approach of accelerating students in math, which leads to students entering high school courses (namely Algebra I and Geometry) during their middle school years. Parents, students and teachers can always recommend a student for acceleration in any subject. That referral process is outlined in the following pages. The District also identifies specific students for acceleration.

After receiving a superior cognitive score and gifted identification in 3rd grade, a sample of students are recommended by the district for acceleration to 5th grade math, moving past 4th grade math. Teacher recommendations are an important part of this district-sponsored process in addition to the gifted identification and above-level testing mandated by the state for acceleration. Students are also recommended for acceleration in science in this scenario due to the relationship of math and science courses at Granville Intermediate School and beyond.

Students who take Advanced Math 6 are not only taking an advanced class, they are also recommended to bypass 7th grade Math and move into Pre-Algebra. Again, an additional above-level assessment and gifted identification are necessary, along with a teacher recommendation.

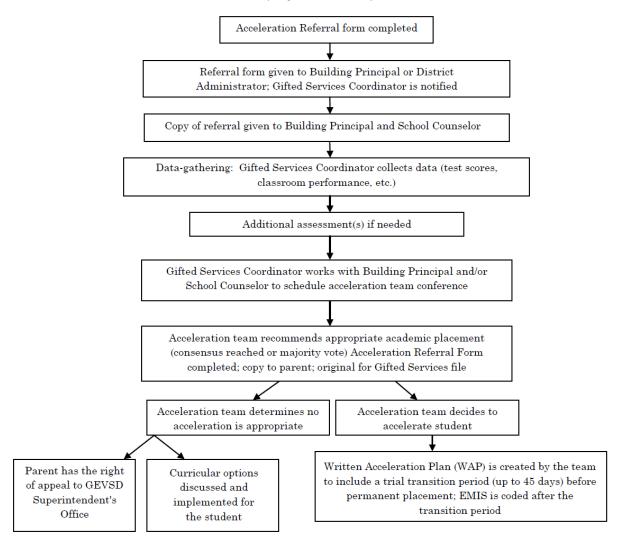
Students who complete the Discovery Gifted ELA classes can be recommended to bypass 7th grade ELA and move into 8th grade Advanced ELA by parents. Again, an additional above-level assessment for writing readiness and gifted identification are necessary, along with a teacher recommendation.

NOTE: Math acceleration from 5th grade math to Pre-Algebra (grade 8 course) is <u>not</u> recommended for any student since two grades are bypassed, and a district-initiated acceleration is in place after the 6th grade year for those in Advanced Math 6.

All acceleration requests for the beginning of the school year are recommended for completion by June 15.

Acceleration Process

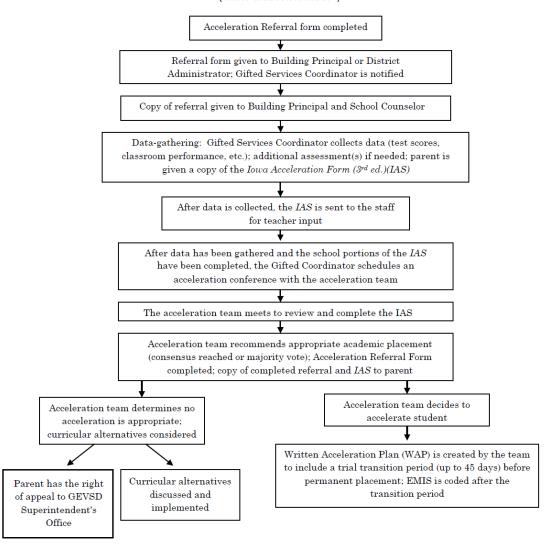
(Subject Acceleration)



All acceleration requests for the beginning of the school year are recommended for completion by June 15.

Acceleration Process

(Whole-Grade Acceleration)



X. Written Acceleration Plan (WAP)

Acceleration is an aspect of GEVSD's service plan that conforms to Ohio Operating Standards. Students who are served must have Written Acceleration Plans (WAP). They are included in the Educational Management Information System (EMIS) database as receiving gifted services. The WAP documents the adjustments made to the subject or overall grade level in a student's area(s) of acceleration. Ohio's Academic Content Standards recognize that students develop at different rates and clearly state that if the student exceeds grade level indicators, he/she must be afforded the opportunity to do so.

WAP progress is shared with parents periodically during the school year via report card data. WAP's are only issued in the year the actual acceleration takes place. It is important to note that the WAP is not an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and does not follow procedures as outlined in federal law for special education.

XI. Early Entrance to School

Early entrance to Kindergarten is considered a form of acceleration by GEVSD and ODE. State law establishes minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten. A child who does not meet the age requirements for admittance to kindergarten or 1st grade, but who will be 5 or 6 years old, respectively, prior to January 1 of the school year in which admission is requested, shall be evaluated for early admittance in accordance with District policy upon referral by the child's parent or guardian, an educator employed by the District, a preschool educator who knows the child or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Following an evaluation in accordance with such a referral, the acceleration committee decides whether to admit the child.

If a child, for whom admission to kindergarten or first grade is requested, will not be 5 or 6 years of age, respectively, prior to January 1 of the school year in which admission is requested, the child is admitted in accordance with the District's acceleration policy adopted under State law.

EARLY ENTRANCE SERVICE PLAN

A parent may request early entrance to kindergarten if the child turns 5 years of age after the District's kindergarten entrance date (September 30) and before January 1. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or 1st grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the District, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.

Any parent who is interested in having his or her child considered for Early Entrance should contact the Building Principal for an application. Early Entrance evaluation is completed in the late winter/early spring concurrent with kindergarten enrollment using ODE-approved assessment instruments.

ODE has on its web site (http://education.ohio.gov/) a checklist for kindergarten readiness. When looking at whether early entrance is appropriate for a child, the same readiness guidelines should be considered.

Students who are viable candidates for Early Entrance to Kindergarten are expected to be developmentally "on track" with the typical kindergarten student. Should a student meet the identification criteria for Superior Cognitive identification but fail to meet the developmental

readiness assessment, the acceleration team (principal, kindergarten teacher, Gifted Services Coordinator, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), school counselor, and/or school psychologist) will then discuss and reach consensus as to what placement is best for the child. If consensus cannot be reached, a decision based on simple majority vote within the team will be final. Parents or guardians have the right to appeal any decision to the GEVSD Superintendent's Office.

XII. Appeal Procedures

An appeal by a parent and/or guardian is the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification or acceleration processes, including:

- Screening procedure or assessment instrument which results in identification
- Scheduling a student for assessment
- Placement of a student for services, including early entrance to Kindergarten
- Receipt of services

Parents should submit a letter to the GEVSD Superintendent's Office outlining the nature of the concern. The Gifted Services Coordinator may convene a meeting with the parent, which may include other school personnel. A written final decision will be issued within 30 days of the appeal and include the reasons for that decision. Letters can be mailed to:

GEVSD Superintendent's Office 130 N. Granger St. PO Box 417 Granville, OH 43023

XIII. GEVSD Policies

GEVSD policy documents related to gifted identification, services and acceleration can be found online using the link found at http://www.granvilleschools.org/BoardofEducation.aspx. Specific polices that relate to items found in this handbook are:

Policy File: IGBB—Programs for Students who are Gifted

Policy File: IKEB—Acceleration

Policy File: JEBA—Early Entrance to Kindergarten



Licking County Educational Service Center Office of Gifted Education 145 N. Quentin Road, Newark, OH 43055 P: 740-349-6084/F: 740-349-6107

Carrie de Marie de					
Student Name:					e of Birth:
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Parent/Guardian Name:				Pho	ne:
Parent/Guardian Email (print VE	RY clearly):				
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If you have questions, please co Service Center by email or pho		strict's Coordi	nator of Gifted	Services at the L	icking County Educational
Heather Clark			lartman		Alasha Havibin
Lakewood & Licking Heights hclark@laca.org 740.349.6105	н		Monroe, & North Fo org 740.349.6094		Alesha Haybin Granville & Licking Valley aybin@laca.org 740.349.6083
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Licking County Educational Service Center

Office of Gifted Education 145 N. Quentin Road, Newark, OH 43055 P: 740-349-6084/F: 740-349-6107

REFERRAL AND PERMISSION FOR ACCELERATION EVALUATION

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Address:				
				(include city & zip code)
an accelerat approved in	ion committee. The student struments for gifted identific	may be given any assessme ation. Results will be shared	ent from the Ohio Dep	ent decisions will be made by partment of Education's list of appropriate school personnel.
•	pe of Acceleration Referral: SUBJECT ACCELERATION in t	the area of MATH	SCIENCE READIN	
□ WHOLE	-GRADE ACCELERATION (if a	pproved, the student would	skip an entire grade)	
2. I un the 3. I un poli 4. I ur Dist 5. Plea	rdinator. I understand that p iderstand that my child may gifted coordinator. In addition iderstand that these testing icies and procedures. A paren inderstand that I may appea trict's superintendent, within	prior testing results may also be tested on any businession, the gifted coordinator was results will be evaluated finit referral does not guaran . If the final placement decing 30 days of the acceleration deceives special services and receives special services and results.	o be reviewed. -day within 45 days af will provide results wit or potential accelerate my child a position, but must do son results letter.	ion according to my district's
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VITAL LINK

LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

OFFICE OF GIFTED EDUCATION 145 North Quentin Road Newark, Ohio 43055

PHONE: 740.349.6084 EMAIL: GIFTED@LCESC.ORG

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Updated 1/14/20

What is early entrance to kindergarten?

Early entrance to kindergarten occurs when a school district evaluates a child who is not yet old enough to enter kindergarten, and admits the child to kindergarten early because the child demonstrates that he/she can succeed in kindergarten after a formal evaluation.

A student must be 5 years old by their home district's cut-off date in order to enroll in kindergarten. When a student does not meet the district's kindergarten cut-off date, an early entrance request may be submitted to consider the child for enrollment in kindergarten. In Ohio, school districts either choose August 1st or September 30th as their district's kindergarten cut-off date.

Your child's birthdate determines the process for early entrance to kindergarten. If your child turns 5 after the district's cut-off date but before January 1st, the parent may refer the child for early entrance to kindergarten evaluation. If your child turns 5 on January 1st or later, a referral must be written from a professional who knows the child. This professional may be a district educator, a pre-school educator, a pediatrician, or psychologist.

Why is there early entrance to kindergarten?

Early entrance is designed for a child who is both academically ready and developmentally mature when compared to others his or her age. Even though a child may have a higher academic ability, they still may not be ready for kindergarten. Social maturity, personal development, and motor development are very important factors for a child's success in school.

How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?

Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability, but easily achieves when presented new material. Once the decision has been made for early entrance to kindergarten, the choice is difficult to reverse.

Does your child show positive social development?

- Separates from you without anxiety
- Handles change and transition well
- Follows directions
- Communicates needs effectively
- Cares about the feelings of others

Does your child demonstrate self-help skills?

- Uses restroom independently
- Uses a tissue to blow their nose
- Dresses self independently
- Puts on and zips up coat independently

Does your child use classroom tools and toys effectively? Does your child use self-control?

- Holds and uses a pencil, crayon or marker
- Cuts with scissors
- Builds with blocks or Legos

- Cooperates and plays well with others
- Shares and takes turns
- Keeps hands to self

What are the academic expectations for kindergarten?

All of the skills listed below are expected to begin kindergarten in addition to the independent skills above.

Writes first name	Identifies upper case letters	Identifies rhyming words
Knows first and last name	Identifies lower case letters	Matches sounds to letters
Identifies shapes	Rote counting 1-20	Identifies the front of a book
Identifies colors	Number recognition 1-10	Identifies a letter in a book
Knows where to start and stop	Awareness that a book is read	Identifies a word in a book
when reading a book	left to right	

A VITAL LINK Making a difference

LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

OFFICE OF GIFTED EDUCATION 145 North Quentin Road Newark, Ohio 43055

PHONE: 740.349.6084 EMAIL: GIFTED@LCESC.ORG

What is the Licking County ESC's process for early entrance to kindergarten evaluation?

The process depends on the child's birthdate.

If your child turns 5 after the district's cut-off date but before January 1st:

A parent may submit a referral for early entrance evaluation to the home district's building principal or the district's gifted coordinator.

After the referral has been received, your child will be scheduled for an early entrance to kindergarten evaluation. The evaluation process is extensive and demanding on the child. It will take multiple hours to complete (similar to a normal school day). Please refer to the kindergarten readiness information on the front of this page to ensure that your child meets all the criteria for ability, achievement, aptitude, and behavior expectations **before** submitting the referral.

Please note: very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten.

If your child turns 5 January 1st or later:

A referral must be written by a professional who knows the child. This person may be a district educator, a preschool educator, a pediatrician, or a psychologist.

In addition to the testing noted above, the child will receive further testing after the initial evaluation day in order to follow the more extensive acceleration process (as required by the Ohio Department of Education for January 1st or later birthdates).

Where and when does early entrance to kindergarten evaluation occur?

Evaluations will take place at the Licking County Educational Service Center (LCESC) at 145 N. Quentin Road, Newark, Ohio 43055. After a referral is received and processed, you will be contacted to schedule testing. Both the child and parent will attend the evaluation day together. The parent is expected to remain in the building during the evaluation day with the exception of taking the child for a lunch/play break in the middle of the day.

Typical Evaluation Day Schedule		
9:30 Registration	11:30-12:00 Parent Conferences	
9:40-10:15 Ability Test	12:00-1:00 Lunch/Play Break with Parent	
10:15-10:30 Break	1:00-1:30 Readiness Test	
10:30-11:30 Readiness Test	1:30-3:00 Achievement Test	

What is the next step to have my child evaluated for early entrance to kindergarten?

Complete and submit the attached early entrance to kindergarten referral to either your home district's building principal or the district's gifted coordinator. **Referrals must be submitted by:**

- Friday, May 15, 2020 to receive an evaluation and decision prior to summer break
- Wednesday, August 12, 2020 to receive an evaluation and decision prior to the first day of school

Referrals received after Wednesday, August 12, 2020 may be evaluated for a second semester start. You will be contacted to schedule testing after the completed referral is received and reviewed. If you have further questions, please call 740.349.6084.

Licking County Educational Service Center Office of Gifted Education

145 N. Quentin Road, Newark, OH 43055 P: 740-349-6084/F: 740-349-6107

C. I. I.	REFERRAL AND PERMISSION F		
	ame:		
District:			uilding:
	ardian Name:		
	ardian Email (print VERY clearly):		
Address			
			(include city & zip co
district adm approved in	ta will be evaluated for acceleration using a p ninistrators. The student may be given any a nstruments for gifted identification or a dis en. Results will be shared with the parent and	assessment from the strict approved ass	the Ohio Department of Education's list seessment developed for early entrance
Mark the ty	ype of Acceleration Referral:		
Des O	signate a testing session you are available: 15/19/20 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Referral must be 18/14/20 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Referral must be	received by 5/15/20;	0; Decision made prior to summer break
☐ EARLY E	ENTRANCE ACCELERATION-FIRST GRADE (stu	dent does not meet	et age requirement to enter 1 st grade)
2. I ur acc ent 3. I ur 4. I ur sup 5. I un con 6. Ple: acc 7. I giv	be tested by a gifted coordinator. I understand that these testing results will be excording to my District's policies and procedultrance placement. Inderstand that early entrance committee will understand that I may appeal the final place perintendent within 30 days of the early entranderstand that referrals received after August intent missed in the kindergarten classroom from the sase indicate below if your child receives special commodations: IEP 504 ve permission to contact my child's preschool seschool teacher name:	raluated for potentines. A parent referomake a final placer ement decision, but the control of t	tial early entrance to kindergarten/1st graerral does not guarantee my child an eatement decision. but must do so in writing to my District. ect to adjusted scoring standards that reflete school year until the referral is processed and has a formal document outlining testion. *Attach documentation if available.
Signature		Relationship t	to Child Date
Questions o	or Concerns? Contact your district's Gifted Co	ordinator at the Lic	icking County Educational Service Center
Lakewo <u>hclark@la</u>	ood & Licking Heights Heath, Johnstow		ahaybin@laca.org 740.349.6083 and placement in eligible services, including minority or
	and the second s	,	
·	pleted by Gifted Coordinator a/s of Identification: O SC O MTH O SCI R	○ SS ○ CT ○	Date Received:) VPA O NONE Coordinator Initials:

PREPARING A SCHOOL-READY CHILD

"Children who enter kindergarten ready to meet its academic, social, and emotional demands are more likely to achieve later academic and life success."1

What is school readiness?

School readiness involves more than just children. In the broadest sense, school readiness is about children. families, early environments, schools, and communities. Children are not innately "ready" or "not ready" for school. Their skills and development are strongly influenced by their families and through their interactions with other people and environments before coming to school.2



and attitudes necessary for success in primary school, later learning, and life. Physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development are essential ingredients of school readiness. School readiness refers not only to ready children, but to ready communities, families, and schools.3



The ready child

- has been well-cared for physically, interacts socially with others, has a positive selfperception, has the ability to understand the emotions of others, and can interpret and express feelings;
- approaches learning with enthusiasm and curiosity, has developed language and listening skills, and has cognition skills and general knowledge; and
- is prepared to learn successfully in school

School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children. Child Trends Research Brief. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED444712.pdf

The ready school



- uses curriculum in kindergarten and the early grades that builds on prior learning;
- takes into account individual differences in language, culture, and prior experience; and
- employs teachers who know how to teach young children and have the resources to do so.

NAEYC Position Statement on School Readiness https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/ downloads/PDFs/resources/position-statements/Readiness.pdf

The ready family

- supports children in their learning and through transition to kindergarten;
- · reads to their children daily; and
- continues to engage in their child's learning through the school years

PFCE Interactive Framework. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/ school-readiness/article/pfce-interactive-framework

The ready community



- helps ensure that children have access to health care, immunizations, and nutrition;
- helps ensure that families have access to quality early childcare and education; and
- invests in resources and activities that support families and promote school readiness.

School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children. Child Trends Research Brief. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED444712.pdf

Additional Resources



Participation https://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/ pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2017101



in Head Start and center-based early childhood education

programs
https://ies.ed.gov/ pubsearch/pubsinfo



nthesis of IES Research on Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education https://ies.ed.gov/ncser/ 20133001.pdf



eaching Math to Children in Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/ PracticeGuide/18



THE READY FAMILY

An Important Component of Preparing a School-Ready Child

What is school readiness?

School readiness involves more than just children. In the broadest sense, school readiness is about children, families, early environments, schools, and communities. Children are not innately "ready" or "not ready" for school. Their skills and development are strongly influenced by their families and through their interactions with other people and environments before coming to school.¹

A family that is ready for their child to start school **supports their child's learning by preparing for kindergarten**, **reads daily with their child**, and **maintains a positive home-to-school connection**.

School readiness occurs when children have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in

primary school, later learning, and life.
Physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development are essential ingredients of school readiness. School readiness refers not only to ready children, but to ready communities, families, and schools.²



Preparing for Kindergarten

A ready family encourages preliteracy skills including speaking, listening and thinking. A ready family also teaches routines to prepare their child for a smooth transition to kindergarten.

- How to Prepare Your Family for Kindergarten
- Get Ready for Kindergarten! Activity Calendar for Families
- Transitioning to Kindergarten
- Questions that Lead to Thinking

Reading Together

A ready family reads daily to their child. Reading together improves a child's vocabulary and oral language skills, which are important for learning to read. Reading together also promotes a love of books.

- Dialogic Reading: An Effective Way to Read to Preschoolers
- Notable Books for Younger Readers
- Just Take 20: Make Reading a Regular Routine!



Educator Resources

- Ready at Five
- Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten
- Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families
- Transition to Kindergarten Resources from ECLKC
- Parent Engagement
- Engaging Families in Early Childhood Education
- Ready Families: Strategies for Readiness
- Infographic: Succeeding in School: Essential Features of Literacy Development



Connecting Home and School

A ready family supports learning at home by providing a positive, literacy-rich environment and opportunities to practice skills that were taught in school. A ready family stays connected to school by volunteering and attending meetings and events at school.

- Infographic: Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development
 at Home
- Reading Rockets Video: The Home Front
- Literacy Begins at Home (Pre-K-3)
- Kid Zone! A Free Virtual Play Space for Kids and Families to Develop Literacy
- Empowering Parents

This document was developed by a collaborative group of representatives of the ten Regional Educational Laboratories throughout the United States.





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XIV. Gifted Learners vs. Bright Students

Many times students who are characterized as "bright" students in the academic environment are also called "gifted" students. However, there are significant differences between "bright" and "gifted" learners, especially in the area of superior cognitive identification. The chart below is a useful tool that describes the characteristics of a "bright" student to those of a "gifted" student.

A Bright Child...



- Knows the answers
- Is interested
- Is attentive
- · Has good ideas
- Works hard
- · Answers the questions
- Is in the top group
- · Listens with interest
- Learns with ease
- Requires 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Understands ideas
- Enjoys peers
- Understands abstract humor
- · Grasps the meaning
- · Completes assignments on time
- Is receptive
- Copies accurately
- Enjoys school
- · Absorbs information
- Is a technician
- Is a good memorizer
- · Enjoys straightforward presentation
- Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning
- Is motivated by grades
- Is able

A Gifted Learner...



- · Asks the questions
- Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved
- · Has wild, silly ideas
- · Plays around, yet tests well
- · Discusses in detail; elaborates
- Is beyond the group
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Already knows
- Requires 1-2 repetitions for total mastery
- Constructs abstractions
- Prefers adults
- Creates abstract humor
- · Draws inferences
- Initiates projects
- Is intense
- Creates a new design
- · Enjoys self-directed learning
- Manipulates information
- Is an inventor
- · Is a good guesser
- Thrives on complexity
- Is keenly observant
- Is highly self-critical
- Is not motivated by grades
- Is intellectual

XV. Myths About Gifted Students

Myth: Gifted Children will achieve without guidance.

Fact: Without guidance and support, Gifted Children may lose motivation or underachieve.

Myth: Gifted Children should be given larger quantity of work at average grade level.

Fact: Gifted Children need a high degree of educational challenge, not more of an average level.

Myth: Gifted Children are "teacher pleasers" and easy to teach.

Fact: In order for gifted children to maintain high levels of achievement, teachers must make curricular adjustments. Without appropriate modifications, gifted students may develop behavior problems.

Myth: Gifted Children will make straight "A"s.

Fact: Gifted Children will not always achieve, especially if unmotivated.

Myth: Gifted Children are nearly always from upper-middle-class, professional families.

Fact: Gifted Children are from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Myth: Gifted Children are often socially popular with their peers.

Fact: Gifted Children are often ostracized socially, especially at the secondary level.

Myth: Most Gifted Children are failures in their adult life.

Fact: Research indicates that outstanding success is achieved by most gifted individuals if they have been identified and their giftedness nurtured.

Myth: Gifted children learn best on their own.

Fact: Gifted Children need the stimulation of other Gifted Children and should be grouped together a portion of every day.

Myth: Extra help for Gifted Children fosters snobbery and is likely to lead to an elitist class.

Fact: Giftedness is fragile. Every child deserves an education which is appropriate to individual needs. Children at both extremes of the ability spectrum need special education. ALL students have the right to have their unique academic needs met, regardless of their level of intellect.

Myth: Gifted students are best served when tutoring others.

Fact: When gifted students consistently tutor others, often they are not learning anything new. This can create unhealthy self-esteem issues for both the tutored and the gifted student.

XVI. Websites for Gifted Students, Parents and Educators

 American Association for Gifted Children at Duke University http://www.aagc.org/main.html

Nation's oldest advocacy organization for gifted children

• Center for Talent Development: Northwestern University http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/

One of four regional talent search programs

Offers summer programs, networking and coordinates MIDWEST Talent Search

 Davidson Institute for Talent Development http://www.davidson-institute.org/

To recognize, nurture and support profoundly gifted young people and to provide opportunities for them to develop their talents in positive ways to create value for themselves and others

 National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) http://www.nagc.org/

Advocacy organization that offers a wide range of publications and services

• The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented: The University of Connecticut http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html

Funded by the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act A nationwide cooperative of researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and other persons and groups that have a stake in developing the performance and potentials of young people from preschool through postsecondary levels

 The Ohio Association for Gifted Children http://www.oagc.com/

To promote and support the development of gifted students through dissemination of information, advocacy on their behalf, encouragement of affiliate organizations, and to promote research and education for gifted children

 Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted, Inc. (SENG) http://www.sengifted.org/ext_dep.htm

SENG seeks to inform gifted individuals, their families, and the professionals who work with them about the unique social and emotional needs of gifted persons.

Offers conferences and scholarships

XVII. Glossary of Terms

- **Acceleration** ... A strategy of progressing through education at rates faster or ages younger than the norm.
- Achievement Test (A.I.R.) ... A standardized test created by the state of Ohio to evaluate and judge the progress of students in the state of Ohio. However, according to the Ohio Administrative Code, the Ohio Achievement Test is NOT an approved instrument to use for gifted identification.
- Advanced Placement (AP) ... A program developed by the College Board where high schools offer courses that meet criteria established by institutions of higher education. In many instances, college credit may be earned with the successful completion of an AP exam in specific content areas.
- **Affective** ... Addressing the social, emotional, and behavioral development specific to the needs of gifted students.
- Authentic Assessment ... Evaluating student learning through the use of student portfolios, performance, or observations in place or in conjunction with more traditional measures of performance such as tests and written assignments. The process allows students to be evaluated using assessments that more closely resemble real world tasks, such as a scientific experiment to demonstrate understanding of the laws of motion.
- Cooperative Learning ... An instructional method that allows students to work in small groups within the classroom, often with a division of assignments of several specific tasks or roles.
- Creative Problem Solving ... The process of identifying and analyzing a problem and evaluating the implementation of possible solutions.
- Creativity ... The process of developing new, uncommon, or unique ideas. The federal definition of giftedness identifies creativity as a specific component of giftedness.
- Critical Thinking ... The cognitive process of relating language to logic, which leads to an ability to analyze, criticize, advocate ideas, to reason, and to reach factual and judgmental conclusions.
- **Differentiation** ... Modifying curriculum and instruction according to content, pacing, and/or product to meet unique student needs in the classroom.
- **Divergent Thinking** ... The attempt to generate a variety of possibilities to answer a question or solve a problem.
- Enrichment ... Activities that add or go beyond the existing curriculum. Activities may occur in the classroom or in a separate setting.
- **Gifted and Talented Student** ... The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act defines gifted and talented students as "Students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services and activities not

- ordinarily provided by the school, in order to fully develop those capabilities." (Title IX, Part A, Definition 22. 2002)
- **Identification** ... A student must meet specific criterion, as designated by the state of Ohio Administrative Code, to be identified gifted in any subject area or superior cognitive. Once a student has been identified "gifted," the state mandates that this identification will carry with them indefinitely.
- Intelligence ... The ability to learn, reason, and problem solve. Debate revolves around the nature of intelligence as to whether it is an innate quality or something that is developed as a result of interacting with the environment. Many researchers believe that it is a combination of the two.
- Intelligent Quotient (IQ) ... A numerical representation of intelligence. IQ is derived from dividing mental age (result from an intelligence test) by the chronological age times 100. Traditionally, an average IQ is considered to be 100.
- Logical Reasoning ... The science of distinguishing between correct and incorrect reasoning and argument.
- Ohio Administrative Code ... Rules and expectations set forth by the State of Ohio to govern gifted programming, evaluation, and identification, more specifically called the "Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Students Who are Gifted."
- **Pull-out Program** ... A program which takes a student out of the regular classroom during the school day for special programming.
- **Rubric** ... A rubric is a chart composed of criteria for evaluation and levels of fulfillment of those criteria. A rubric allows for standardized evaluation according to specified criteria, making grading simpler and more transparent.
- **Service** ... Classes or programming, in addition to the regular classroom, that are offered to students that qualify.
- **Single-Subject Acceleration** ... A student is accelerated into one, or more, grades higher than their chronological placement, in a specific subject area.
- Specific Academic ... A gifted identification or service offered in one of the following areas of instruction: mathematics; science; reading, writing, or a combination of this skills; and/or social studies. A child shall be identified as exhibiting "specific academic ability" superior to that of children of similar age in a specific academic ability field if within the preceding twenty-four months the child performs at or above the ninety-fifth percentile at the national level on an approved individual or group standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field. A child may be identified as gifted in more than one specific academic ability field.
- **Standardized Testing** ... A standardized test is nationally normed, allowing student scores to be compared equally to others that have taken the same test.
- Superior Cognitive ... A child shall be identified as exhibiting "superior cognitive ability" if the child did either of the following within the preceding twenty-four months: Scored at least two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of

measurement, on an approved standardized group intelligence test; performed at or above the ninety-fifth percentile on an approved individual or group standardized basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test; or attained an approved score on one or more above grade-level standardized, nationally normed approved tests.

- WAP ... Written Acceleration Plan. The written acceleration plan is a guideline for gifted students, teachers and parents of the student being whole-grade or single-subject accelerated. The WAP is only completed the **first** year of acceleration.
- WEP ... Written Education Plan. The written education plan is a guideline for gifted students, teachers and parents of the gifted with goals to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of the gifted learner. Written education plans are completed each year that a student is placed in gifted services.
- Whole-Grade Acceleration ... A student is promoted to one, or more, grade higher than their chronological placement. This student becomes a member of the graduating class they are accelerated into.
- Whole-Grade Screening ... Standardized testing administered to an entire grade level, typically in the spring. These scores are used for gifted identification, placement, and retesting candidates.

Sources for definitions: www.nagc.org and www.oagc.org

For more information, please refer to the Granville Schools website, <u>www.granvilleschools.org</u>. The Gifted Services information can be found in the *Academics* section under the District tab.