



**Ottawa Hills Local School District
Policy and Plan
For the Identification and Service
Of Children Who are Gifted**

Ottawa Hills Local School District
4035 West Central Avenue
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606
419-536-2713

Definition

Gifted students perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. Those accomplishments may be in one or more of the following areas:

- cognitive ability
- specific academic ability (reading, math, science, or social studies)
- creative thinking ability
- visual or performing arts ability

Identification

All students are screened for giftedness once before the end of grade 2 and once again before the end of grade 6 or upon parent request. Screening assessments are selected from the List of Approved Assessments published annually by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). In the case of visual or performing arts, screenings are conducted using ODE approved checklists. After any initial gifted identification has been properly made, a student remains identified as such regardless of subsequent testing or classroom performance.

Services

School Districts may only indicate to parents or report to the department of education that a student is receiving gifted education services when the following conditions are met:

- Providers of gifted education services have appropriate training: 15 hours a year for 4 years (or until 60 hours are reached) with continuing professional development support thereafter.
- Providers differentiate instruction from the standard curriculum.
- Services take place during the typical instructional day.
- Services match the student's identified area of giftedness.
- A Written Education Plan is written and implemented for all students receiving gifted services.

Gifted service may included the following:

- differentiated instruction supported by a Gifted Intervention Specialist
- pull-out and push-in enrichment activities
- Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Arts Instruction
- Subject or Grade Acceleration
- College Credit Plus
- Educational Options (e.g. independent studies)

While all but one of these conditions are routinely met, Ottawa Hills Local Schools reports only a small number of its gifted students as being served by a state-defined gifted education program because Written Education Plans (WEPS) are not written for every gifted student. Rather, the resources of personnel and time that would be required to write over 400 WEPS are reinvested into the other aspects of gifted education that directly impact student experiences.

More About Written Education Plans

Gifted services as defined by the state shall be guided by a Written Education Plan (WEP). The district shall provide parents with periodic reports regarding the students progress toward meeting goals and the effectiveness of the services provided in accordance with the WEP.

(1) The WEP shall be developed in collaboration with an educator who holds licensure or endorsement in gifted education. The WEP will:

(a) Provide a description of gifted services including:

- (i) Goals for the student including, but not limited to, measurable academic goals aligned with Ohio Learning Standards. Goals may also include curricular, guidance and instructional practices which support the students social and emotional needs;
- (ii) Methods and performance measurements for evaluating progress toward achieving the goals specified;
- (iii) Methods and schedule for reporting progress to students and parents;
- (iv) Staff members responsible for ensuring that specified services are delivered;
- (v) Policies regarding the waiver of assignments and the scheduling of tests missed while participating in any gifted services provided outside the general education classroom;
- (vi) Include a date by which the WEP will be annually reviewed for possible revision; and
- (vii) An explanation of how the gifted services meet the student's documented strengths, educational needs, and goals for the student.

(b) Parents, the collaborating educator, and all educators responsible for providing gifted education services to the student, including teachers providing differentiated instruction in general education settings, will be provided a copy of the WEP.

(c) The district will make a reasonable attempt at the commencement of services and each year thereafter to obtain a parent or guardian input and signature on the WEP. Students will not be denied services due to the lack of a parent or guardian signature.

Again, Ottawa Hills Local Schools strives to impact the experience of each of our over 400 gifted students, therefore the majority of our gifted education resources are allocated toward working with teachers and students. That being said, WEPS are written as part of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support process for students in grades 3 through 6 who meet BOTH of the following criteria starting with the **Class of 2035** and continuing for every subsequent cohort of students:

Cognitive Ability	Reading or Mathematics
Identified as gifted using a state-approved assessment	Identified as gifted using a state-approved assessment

Details About Screening and Identification

STUDENTS	ASSESSMENT TOOLS	AREAS OF IDENTIFICATION	CRITERIA	RETESTING SCORE
All Grade 2	InView	Superior Cognitive Ability	CSI 128	CSI 126
	TerraNova	Specific Academic Ability	95th Percentile	93rd Percentile
All Grade 4	Approved Checklist or Rubrics	Creative Thinking	CSI 112	CSI 110 + Checklist
		Visual & Performing Arts	Varies by rubric.	Varies by rubric.
Upon Request	Selected from ODE Approved Assessments*	All Areas	In accordance with the assessment and state guidelines.	Varies by assessment.

* List available annually at education.ohio.gov search term "approved assessments"

RETESTING

All students who come within the established point ranges of the listed criteria are automatically scheduled for retesting, which can also be requested at any time.

ACCESS and ACCOMMODATIONS

All required accommodations are assured during testing (i.e. those defined by IEP, 504, or EL program plans).

Related Links

[Gifted Referral Form](#)

Children may be referred to in writing on an ongoing basis. Upon receipt of referral, and after necessary assessments, the district will notify parents of results and identification within 30 days.

[Request for Acceleration Form](#)

Children may be referred to in writing on an ongoing basis. Upon receipt of referral, and after necessary assessments, the district will notify parents of results within 30 days.

[Educational Options Application](#)

Applications must be submitted by October 1 for the following Spring or April 1 for the following Fall.

Appeals

With regards to decisions made about gifted identification, acceleration, or educational options, appeals may be made as follows:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the Superintendent or designee within thirty (30) days of being notified of the committee's decision.	The Superintendent or designee shall convene a meeting with the parent/guardian which may include other school personnel.	The Superintendent or designee will issue a written final decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal. This written notice shall include the reason for the decision(s). The Superintendent's decision shall be final.