Findlay City Schools

Policy and Procedures for the Identification and Services for Gifted Students

2026 - 2027

Mission Statement

Unlocking the dreams of all students through academic **excellence**, diverse **opportunities**, and true **belonging.**

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POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Findlay City Schools follows the identification eligibility criteria as specified in Ohio law and identifies gifted students in kindergarten through grade 12. Ohio Revised Code Section 3324.01 (2025) defines gifted as "...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 (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Revised Code."

Findlay City Schools screens and identifies students for giftedness in the following areas.

- Superior Cognitive Ability
- Specific Academic Ability: Mathematics
- Specific Academic Ability: Reading and/or Writing
- Specific Academic Ability: Science
- Specific Academic Ability: Social Studies
- Creative Thinking Ability
- Visual or Performing Arts Ability

For the identification of Superior Cognitive Ability, Ohio law requires school districts to use a score of two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement on a state-approved intelligence assessment or a score at or above the ninety-fifth percentile on a state-approved basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test.

For gifted identification in a specific academic area (mathematics, reading and/or writing, social studies, and science), state law defines the qualifying score as at or above the ninety-fifth percentile at the national level on a state-approved achievement test

Identification in the areas of Creative Thinking Ability and Visual or Performing Arts Ability are two-part processes. One component of these processes involves completion of a special type of behavioral checklist, or rating scale. The second component in the identification of Creative Thinking Ability is a score of one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement on a state-approved intelligence test. The second part of the identification process for Visual or Performing Arts Ability entails the student demonstrating superior ability through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition to a trained individual.

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Criteria and Methods for the Screening and Assessment of Students

Findlay City Schools uses assessment instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for whole-grade gifted screening and identification.

- Students in grades 2 and 5 are screened in the areas of Superior Cognitive Ability and specific academic abilities (mathematics, reading and/or writing, social studies, and science).
- Students in grades 3-10 are screened in reading three times a year.
- Students in grades 1-9 are screened in mathematics three times a year.
- Students in grade 11 are screened for specific academic abilities in reading, math, and science.

All students participate in whole-grade screenings unless a student's parent/guardian opts their child out of testing.

Ohio school districts are required to set scores that are lower than the scores necessary for gifted identification to move students from the screening to the assessment stage for Superior Cognitive Ability and specific academic abilities. Findlay City Schools' reassessment range in these areas is 3 points or 3 percentiles within the minimum score needed to qualify as gifted. For gifted identification in Creative Thinking Ability and Visual or Performing Arts Ability, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce establishes the qualifying scores for gifted identification and reassessment.

Parents/Guardians are notified of the results within 30 days of the district receiving the screening results. They are also notified at this time if a student qualifies for reassessment, and parent/guardian permission for reassessment is requested.

Whole Grade Screening Assessment Instruments

Findlay City Schools uses the *Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test, Third Edition (NNAT3),* for whole-grade screening in grades 2 and 5 to assess Superior Cognitive Ability. *The Iowa Assessments* are used for whole-grade screenings in grade 2 to assess specific academic abilities (mathematics, reading and/or writing, social studies, and science) and Superior Cognitive Ability. *The Iowa Assessments* are used for whole-grade screenings in grade 5 to assess specific academic abilities (social studies and science).

Star Reading is used to screen students in grades 3-10 in the specific academic ability of reading. *Star Math* is used to screen students in grades 1-9 in the specific academic ability of mathematics. *The ACT* is used to screen students in grade 11 in the specific academic abilities of reading, mathematics, and science.

Assessment for Identification

Assessments provide the data necessary for an identification decision and eligibility for services. Procedures for evaluation include the individual and group testing requirements of Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15.

Once the assessment data is evaluated and the identification decision is made, the student's educational needs are determined. A student identified as gifted in accordance with Ohio law remains identified as gifted regardless of subsequent testing or classroom performance.

Ongoing Opportunities for Assessment

Findlay City Schools offers ongoing gifted assessment opportunities throughout the academic year, from September through May.

Referral for Testing

Teachers, parents/guardians, or peers may refer students for gifted identification evaluation. Students may also refer themselves for testing. Upon receipt of a referral, parents/guardians receive a permission to assess form to complete. Once the form is completed and returned to the gifted office, the student is added to the testing list and scheduled for testing.

Students are assessed within 90 days of the initial referral. The gifted coordinator, teacher, trained professional, or school psychologist assesses referred students using tests on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce *List of Approved Assessments*. Findlay City Schools may also contract with a qualified public or private service provider to screen or assess students. Results are sent to the student's parents/guardians within 30 days of the district receiving the assessment results.

Equitable Testing Practices

All students participate in whole-grade screenings unless a student's parent/guardian opts their child out of testing. Findlay City Schools include minority and disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners in whole-grade screenings and assessments (Ohio Revised Code, Section 3324.02).

Findlay City Schools utilizes the *Naglieri Nonverbal Abilities Test, Third Edition (NNAT3)*, a nonverbal, culturally neutral assessment, for whole-grade and individual screening. Our school psychologists are available to administer the non-verbal component in the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition,* to students with physical and/or sensory disabilities.

At Findlay City Schools, students with a 504 Plan, Individualized Education Plan, or English Language Learner Plan are provided with allowable accommodations on gifted assessments.

Procedures for Assessment of Transfer Students

Findlay City Schools ensures that any student transferring into the district is assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent/guardian, teachers, student, or other students. Families share gifted information with the Welcome Center, principal, or gifted coordinator during the new student registration process.

If testing is required, the same procedures are followed as outlined in the *Referral for Testing* section.

Acceptance of Outside Testing Data

Findlay City Schools accepts test scores from other school districts and/or trained personnel outside the district, provided that the scores are from an instrument approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Opportunity for Family to Appeal

An appeal by the parent/guardian is the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process, including the screening procedure or assessment instrument, scheduling of a child for assessment, placement of a student in any program, and/or receipt of services. To appeal a decision, parents/guardians should submit a letter to the Assistant Superintendent outlining the nature of the concern. The Assistant Superintendent may convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel. The Assistant Superintendent will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice will include the reason(s) for the decision.

SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

All gifted education services are delivered in accordance with Ohio law. Findlay City Schools ensures equal access for all students identified as gifted to receive any available gifted service offered by the district.

Elementary (Grades 3-5)

Students with gifted identifications are placed in a cluster group within a general education classroom at their grade level. They are taught by a teacher who receives professional development in gifted education.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Middle school students with gifted identifications are in a cluster group within an advanced classroom for the subject area in which they are gifted. Students identified as gifted in Superior Cognitive Ability are scheduled into all advanced classes. These advanced courses are taught by a teacher who received professional development in gifted education.

High School (Grades 9-12)

Students identified as gifted are served in Honors, Advanced Placement, and/or College Credit Plus classes. College Credit Plus courses are available for students in grades 7-12.

Withdrawal Process

If, at any time, a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services, a parent/guardian or student may submit a written request to the gifted coordinator, principal, or counselor. If a student requests to withdraw, parents/guardians are notified.

Written Educational Plan

Every student who is identified as gifted and in a clustered elementary class, advanced middle school classes, Advanced Placement, Honors, or College Credit Plus classes has a Written Education Plan. A teacher trained as a gifted service provider ensures delivery of services in the program.

The Written Education Plan (WEP):

- describes the services offered,
- lists individual goals the student will work on throughout the year,
- indicates how progress will be evaluated, and
- includes a schedule for reporting progress to parents and a date for the next review.

For more information, contact Dr. Kelly Wohlgamuth, Coordinator of Gifted & English Language Learner Services at kwohlgamuth@findlaycityschools.org or visit the website listed below.

Findlay City Schools

Gifted Services Website & Referral Form

https://bit.ly/3SvdR2u