

Frequently Asked Questions

How are students identified as gifted?

For a student to be identified as gifted he/she must meet the following criteria as defined by the State of Ohio:

Superior Cognitive Ability- Scoring a CSI of 128 or higher on a State approved norm-referenced, standardized cognitive abilities test.

Specific Academic Ability- Scoring in the 95th percentile or higher in any academic total area (reading and/or writing, math, science or social studies) on a State approved norm-referenced, standardized achievement test.

Creative Thinking Ability- Scoring a CSI of 112 or higher on a State approved norm-referenced, standardized cognitive abilities test; as well as achieve a qualifying score on a State approved behavioral checklist of creative thinking abilities.

Visual and Performing Arts- Achieving a qualifying score on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area; as well as demonstrate to a trained individual through a display of work, an audition, or other performance, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area.

Please note that all assessments utilized for gifted screening and identification are selected from the **Chart of Approved Assessments** through the Ohio Department of Education.

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Gifted-Screening-and-Identification/Chart-of-Approved-Assessment-and-Gifted-Education/Chart-of-Approved-Assessments.pdf.aspx>

How are students assessed?

Ontario Local Schools uses several avenues to identify potentially gifted students which include:

- Whole grade national standardized testing in reading and math at the 1st grade level.
- Whole grade national standardized testing for superior cognitive ability and creative thinking ability at the 2nd grade level.
- Whole grade national standardized testing for superior cognitive ability and creative thinking ability as well as specific academic ability in reading, math, science and social studies at the 5th grade level.
- Individually administered assessments
- Audition, performance
- Display of work, exhibition
- Mastery/ competency checklists

In addition, students may be referred for further testing to the Gifted Coordinator in several ways:

- Teacher recommendations
- Parent/ guardian request
- Self-referral
- Peer (student) referral
- Other (psychologist, community members, principal etc.)

How will I know if my student was assessed and what their scores are?

Referrals are actively sought twice each year. Prior to any formal non-whole grade testing by the Gifted Coordinator, permission to test will be gained from the parent or guardian. In addition, parents/ guardians will be notified within thirty days, usually by letter, of the results of any testing.

Although permission to test is not required for whole grade screening (testing), a letter is sent home notifying parents/ guardians of the dates of any whole grade testing for gifted identification.

My student was tested in a new area and was not identified. Does that mean that he is no longer gifted?

The State of Ohio recognizes a student as "once identified, always identified". In Ohio, a student continues to be identified as gifted for the duration of his or her K-12 career, regardless of future testing or performance.

What is a WEP?

A WEP or Written Education Plan is a description of services provided for a gifted student which includes goals for each area served, methods for evaluating progress toward achieving the goals specified, appropriate personnel responsible for providing services, assignment waiver policy, and schedule for reviewing and reporting progress to students and parents.