
**THE OAKWOOD
SCHOOL
DISTRICT'S POLICY
AND PLAN
FOR THE
IDENTIFICATION
OF AND SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN
WHO ARE GIFTED**

Parent Information



Oakwood City Schools

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www.oakwood.k12.oh.us

DEFINITION

“Gifted” refers to 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 the Ohio Revised Code. Areas of identification include superior cognitive, specific academic (reading, math, social studies, science), creative thinking, and visual/performing arts (visual arts, dance, drama, music).

GIFTED ASSESSMENT

Oakwood City School District selects assessment instruments in accordance with the Ohio Department of Education; these assessments are valid for all populations, including special populations. Tests are administered by qualified personnel. Oakwood City School District identifies students through whole-grade screening and individual referral. Using these combined methods, there are two opportunities for screening and identification each school year.

CRITERIA & PROCEDURES FOR WHOLE GRADE SCREENING

The screening stage involves gathering student data from a variety of sources. In order to ensure that all students who are gifted are identified, all students are included in the screening pool.

The district ensures equal access to screening and further assessment for all district students, including culturally or linguistically diverse students, students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, students with disabilities, including sensory and physical disabilities, and students for whom English is a second language.

Whole-grade screening is conducted for superior cognitive and specific academic domains at grades two, four and six. Through this process, one of three things will happen: 1) the student’s scores automatically identify the student as gifted, 2) the student’s scores render the student ineligible for gifted identification, 3) the student’s scores fall in the “screening range” and the student will be offered additional testing. District-determined screening range scores are lower than the scores necessary for identification and can be found in the brochure, *Assessment Instruments Used for Gifted Identification*.

Once additional assessment has been completed, the data obtained throughout the stages of identification are evaluated, the identification

decision is made according to state requirements, and the student’s educational needs are determined. Parents/Guardians receive written notification of the assessment results within 30 days after assessment results are obtained.

REFERRAL PROCEDURES

The district ensures there are ample and appropriate procedures for assessment and reassessment including group tests, individually-administered tests, checklists, and displays of work or performances. A Call for Referrals twice a school year provides information to parents/guardians about the referral process.

Students may be referred on an ongoing basis, based on the following:

- Student request (self-referral);
- Teacher recommendation;
- Parent/guardian request;
- Student referral of peer; and
- Other (e.g., psychologist, community members, principal, gifted coordinator, etc.).

Upon receipt of a referral, the Gifted Intervention Specialist (GIS) will review student records to determine what tests need to be administered to a student. Parental consent will be obtained for all testing when instruments are not administered to all students. Parents/Guardians are notified via written notification of the assessment results within 30 days after assessment results are obtained.

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF DATA

The district accepts scores from other school districts and/or trained personnel outside the district, provided that the assessment instruments are approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education.

TRANSFER

The district ensures that the records of any student transferring into the district will be reviewed upon receiving the records. If record review indicates qualifying scores in any of the domains of gifted identification, the parent/guardian shall be notified of the gifted identification within 30 days of the record review. If your child previously received gifted services, please contact the building GIS (see contact information on back of this brochure).

SERVICES

Priority for services is given to students who are identified in the superior cognitive domain using ability scores. Services provided are outlined in the district’s Matrices for Gifted Services which can be found on the district’s website at <http://www.oakwood.k12.oh.us>.

WITHDRAWAL

If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted services, the request should be written by the parents/guardians and student to the building administrator. If a student requests to withdraw, parents/guardians will be notified. If the parent/guardian or child needs assistance in writing the request, the district will provide it. The GIS/principal will then contact the parents/guardians to discuss the request.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

A parent/guardian may appeal (within 30 days of the notification) the outcome of the following:

- Screening procedure or assessment instrument;
- The scheduling of student for assessment;
- The placement of a student in any service; and
- Receipt of services.

Parents/guardians should submit a letter to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment outlining the nature of the concern. The Director of Curriculum or designee will convene a meeting with the parents/guardians, which may include other school personnel. The Director of Curriculum or designee will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice will include the reason(s) for the decision.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for gifted services?

When determining eligibility for services, priority is given to students identified in the superior cognitive domain using ability scores. The services provided are outlined in the district's Matrices for Gifted Services. Eligibility for services is evaluated annually and is dependent upon services outlined in the matrices. Current Matrices for Gifted Services are available on the district's website at <http://www.oakwood.k12.oh.us>. All students who are identified as gifted learners and meet the annual criteria for services are eligible to participate in services. Access to services is provided to eligible students including children who are culturally and linguistically diverse, children from low socioeconomic status, children with disabilities, and children for whom English is a second language. Furthermore, services are consistent within grade levels and among buildings.

What are the gifted services?

A description of the gifted services can be found on the Matrices for Gifted Services. A team of Gifted Intervention Specialists and administrators reviews annually the Matrices for Gifted Services and the gifted student population. The matrices are then revised as needed according to highest priority needs of identified students in the district. Current Matrices for Gifted Services, which are aligned with current operating standards, are available online at <http://www.oakwood.k12.oh.us>.

Who administers gifted services?

The State provides limited funding for identifying gifted learners and implementation of gifted services. Primarily, through local tax dollars, the district employs Gifted Intervention Specialists (GIS) who assist teachers at Lange, Harman, Smith, and the Junior/Senior High Schools in identifying and working with gifted learners.

What if my child does not qualify for gifted identification?

If a student does not obtain the required score on a group administered assessment, the student, parent/guardian, teacher, principal, or trained personnel from outside the school district may submit a gifted referral form to her/his GIS. An individual assessment can then be administered to determine giftedness.

What are the different areas of giftedness?

A student can be identified as gifted in one or more of the following areas:

- A. Superior Cognitive
- B. Specific Academic (this includes math, science, reading, social studies)
- C. Creative Thinking
- D. Visual and/or Performing Arts

Can I request testing to determine if my child is gifted?

Yes, parents/guardians who believe their child may be gifted can submit a gifted referral form to her/his school's GIS. Referral forms are available at the school and online at www.oakwood.k12.oh.us. After referral and consent to test are provided, the child can then be individually assessed and the parents/guardians will be notified of the results.

What if specialized services are not offered for my child?

Parents/guardians should contact the building GIS

What is the policy regarding the waiver of gifted assignments and the scheduling of tests?
Needs can be addressed through differentiated instruction in the classroom. At the elementary level, students are assessed through cluster groups and pretesting. At the secondary level, students are also served at the building level of the school such as Advanced Placement courses and post-secondary level options.

Will the Oakwood School District accept qualifying scores from a test I had privately administered to my child?
The gifted services department of the Ohio Department of Education and make gifted assessments available up to 30 days after the test was administered. Scores are to be completed. Exceptions to the policy are to be completed.

What are WEP's?
Written Education Plans are Written Education Plans that outline the student goals and services provided to gifted students. Parents/Guardians of served students along with staff responsible for providing services will be provided with a written copy of the WEP upon its annual revision. The WEP may be delivered in person, via first-class mail, or via email. The WEP includes information on methods for evaluating student progress, staff responsible for delivering services, and the deadline for the next review of the WEP. Furthermore, parents/guardians will be provided with written progress reports in person, via first-class mail, or via email on WEP goals within 30 days of the conclusion of the each semester. Only students

receiving specialized gifted services will have a WEP.

What if English is not my child's first language?

A student will be tested in her/his native language or other mode of communication unless it is clearly not feasible to do so. The Ohio Department of Education mandates that appropriate screening and identification are available for all children. This includes students who are culturally and linguistically diverse, students from a low socioeconomic status, and students with disabilities.

If my child is identified as a gifted learner, do they have to receive gifted services?

No, receiving gifted services is optional. The district provides a provision for a student to withdraw from receiving gifted services. The GIS at your child's school can help you with the withdrawal process.

My child was receiving gifted services at her/his previous school and has just transferred to Oakwood. Will she/he continue receiving gifted services at Oakwood?

Your child's records will be reviewed to determine her/his eligibility for gifted services in the Oakwood School District. Please contact the GIS at your child's school for more information, particularly if you are coming to Oakwood from another state.



If you have questions, please call your building Principal or Gifted Intervention Specialist:

Ms. Monica Brouwer at 297-5335

E. D. Smith Elementary
brouwer.monica@oakwoodschoools.org

Ms. Elizabeth Uptegrove at 297-5338

Harman Elementary
uptegrove.elizabeth@oakwoodschoools.org

Mrs. Sarah Schleeauf at 297-5325

Junior / Senior High School
schleeauf.sarah@oakwoodschoools.org

For more information, including the Ohio Revised Code, go to www.ode.state.oh.us

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