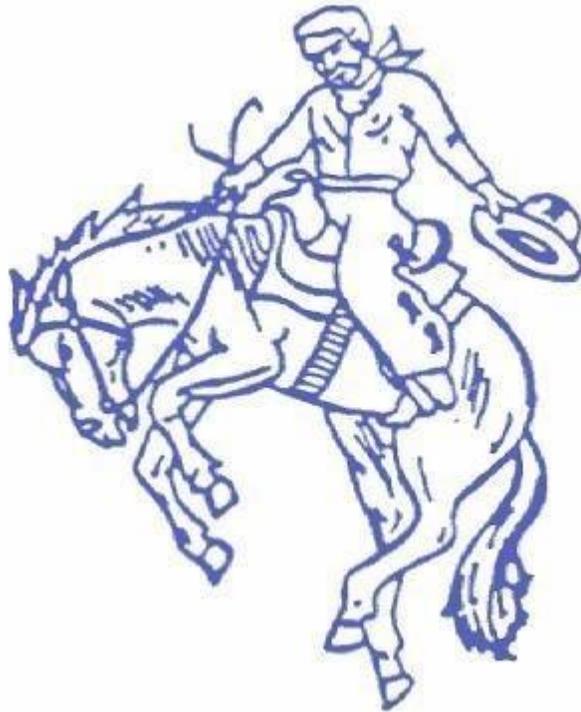


# **Western Reserve Local School District**

## **Policy and Plan for the Identification and Service of Students Who Are Gifted**

### **Information for Parents**



**Based upon Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15**

**Approved 12.20.17 by the Western Reserve Local Board of Education**

## Who is “gifted” in Ohio?

The Ohio operating standards define “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 section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## How are students identified?

Ohio law requires districts to be able to identify students in grades K-12 in the following categories:

Superior Cognitive Ability

Creative Thinking Ability

Specific Academic Ability

Visual and Performing Arts Ability

Math

Dance

Reading

Drama

Science

Music

Social Studies

Visual Arts

## When are students screened and assessed?

A student is considered *screened* for gifted identification when he or she is first evaluated using a state-approved instrument for gifted identification.

Per state guidelines, the district will provide whole-grade screening opportunities in Grade 2 and Grade 4 in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability in math and reading, and creative thinking ability.

The district will screen students individually referred for gifted identification within 90 days of referral by a trained individual using state-approved assessments and criteria.

In the case of students who are referred but do not qualify on the initial screening and meet an established cut-off score, a second opportunity to be *assessed* with a different state-approved instrument will be provided within the school year. Students referred or eligible for reassessment after March 31<sup>st</sup> will be scheduled for assessment prior to or during the month of October.

## General Student Population

A student in any grade level may be individually referred by a teacher, parent, the student, or a peer for gifted screening and identification per state guidelines in any of the required identification areas.

**Referral Forms may be found on the district website or obtained in any school office.**

Parent permission to assess will be obtained before any individual referral assessment takes place. Parent notification of testing results will be by mail, electronic mail or phone within 30 days of district receipt of student results.

## Outside Testing and Transfer Students

The district shall accept assessment results that meet Ohio Department of Education qualification standards and are listed on the Ohio Chart of Approved Assessments if completed within the preceding 24 months. Students that transfer into the district will be assessed within 90 days of transfer upon written parent request. Parents should submit requests to their building principal. Transfer students who meet the gifted identification criteria for district gifted services shall be provided the opportunity to participate in the specific grade level and content area services available.

## Special Populations

The district does not discriminate and special populations are included in screening and assessment procedures. Appropriate instruments are used to include children who come from a low socioeconomic status, minority populations, students who are culturally or linguistically diverse, English learners, and children with disabilities in district screening and assessment opportunities.

The administration of an Alternative Gifted Screening instrument will be considered for students who have been identified as needing specialized assessments or accommodations. To ensure that all students have equal access to screening for gifted identification, the Special Education Supervisor, School Counselor, and Building Principal will review all students identified as minority students, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and/or English language learners for specialized assessment considerations. Appropriate yet state-approved assessments will be chosen according to specific and documented student need. Any assessment score from an appropriate and approved instrument from an Initial Evaluation Screening or Evaluation Team Report within the previous 24 months will be considered an Alternate Gifted Screening result.

## Criteria for Identification

A student shall be identified as exhibiting “**superior cognitive ability**” if the student did either of the following within the preceding 24 months:

- Scored two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual standardized intelligence test administered by a licensed psychologist;
- Accomplished any one of the following:
  - 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 95% 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.

A student shall be identified as exhibiting “**specific academic ability**” superior to that of students of similar age in a specific academic ability field, if, within the preceding 24 months, the student performs at or above the 95% percentile at the national level on an approved

individual or group standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in that field. A student may be identified as gifted in more than one specific academic ability field.

A student shall be identified as exhibiting “**creative thinking ability**” superior to children of a similar age, if within the previous 24 months, the student scored one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual or group intelligence test and also did either of the following:

- Attained a sufficient score, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved individual or group test of creative ability;
- Established sufficient performance, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved checklist of creative behaviors.

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 through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area;
- Exhibited to a trained individual sufficient performance, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area

After any initial gifted identification made in conformance with Ohio Administrative Code, a student shall remain identified regardless of subsequent testing or classroom performance.

## **Appeal**

An appeal by the parent is the reconsideration of the result of any part of the identification or service placement process, which would include:

- Screening procedure or assessment instrument (which results in identification)
- Scheduling of your child for assessment
- Placement of your student in any program
- Receipt of gifted services

Parents should first contact the district gifted coordinator to review the issue within the guidelines of this document. If no satisfactory resolution is reached, parents may then submit a letter to the superintendent outlining the nature of the concern. The superintendent will convene a meeting with the parent or guardian and may include other relevant school personnel. The superintendent will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. The written notice should include a reason for the decision.

## **Service**

The district ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive any services offered by the district for which the student meets the criteria below. Students are identified by qualifying scores on assessments approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

## **Gifted Service Offerings**

At the elementary level grades one through five, students are served if they are identified with Superior Cognitive Ability, or Specific Academic Ability in Reading, Math, Science or Social

Studies. Identified students are cluster grouped in classrooms in which the teacher has Gifted Intervention Specialist credentials, or has completed High Quality Professional Development regarding the unique needs of gifted children.

Students identified with Superior Cognitive Ability, Specific Academic Ability in Math, Reading, Science, or Social Studies, or Visual and Performing Arts Ability may enroll in College Credit Plus courses in their area of strength after passing required entrance examinations. CCP courses are taught at the university level and are instructed by University-trained personnel. CCP courses related to a student's area of identification qualify as gifted service with the Ohio Department of Education.

## **Acceleration**

ORC 3324.10 requires all school districts to implement a student acceleration policy. This statute allows districts, among other things, to place a student in a higher grade level than is typical given the student's age for the purpose of providing student access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one or more subject areas. This practice is known as "subject-area acceleration." Whole-grade or subject-acceleration is considered formal gifted service in the initial year of acceleration only.

Please note there are several district **enrichment opportunities** that may address the specific needs of gifted students that cannot be reported as gifted service to the Ohio Department of Education.

Other district **enrichment opportunities** for gifted students may include:

- Differentiated curriculum and/or instruction
- Cluster grouping
- Honors or Advanced Courses
- Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
- Curriculum compacting
- Chess Club
- Academic Challenge Teams

## **Withdraw**

If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services, the request should be written by the parent or child and submitted to your building principal. If children request to withdraw from formal gifted services, parents will be notified.

## **Written Education Plan (WEP)**

When students identified as gifted are reported to parents and the Ohio Department of Education **as receiving district gifted service**, they must have a Written Education Plan developed in collaboration with an educator who holds licensure or endorsement in gifted education. The WEP includes goals for each service provided, a method and schedule for reporting progress to students and parents, staff members responsible for delivering service, and an annual date for possible revision.

Students participating in gifted services outside the regular classroom setting (such as resource rooms or “pull-out” programs) are exempt from non-critical assignments to the standard curriculum. Any tests or assessments missed while participating in gifted services may be rescheduled.

## **District Assessment Instruments Approved for Gifted Identification**

### **Superior Cognitive Ability**

Cognitive Abilities Test Form 7 VQN Composite			
Grades K-1	Screening	125	Identification 127
Grades 2-12	Screening	126	Identification 128
InView, Grades 2-4 Levels 1 and 2	Screening	126	
	Identification	128	
Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children- V	Screening	125	
	Identification	127	
Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence IV – FSIQ	Screening	125	
	Identification	127	
Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Cognitive Abilities	Screening	125	
	Identification	127	

### **Specific Academic Ability**

ACT Assessment Program (AAP)	Screening	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
	Identification	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) Form A or C	Screening	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
	Identification	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Terra Nova – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition Complete Battery – Levels 12, 14	Screening	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
	Identification	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT-III) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Screening	93 <sup>rd</sup> percentile
	Identification	95 <sup>th</sup> percentile

### Creative Thinking Ability

Cognitive Abilities Test Form 7 VQN Composite					
Grades K-1	Screening	110	Identification	111	
Grades 2-12	Screening	111	Identification	112	
InView, Grades 2-4	Screening	111	Identification	112	
Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V)	Screening	111	Identification	112	
Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence IV – FSIQ	Screening	111	Identification	112	
Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Cognitive Abilities	Screening	111	Identification	112	

*In addition to a qualifying score on one of the following rating scales:*

Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales (GATES-2) Creative Thinking Section	Screening	90-110
	Identification	111
Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS) Part II – Creativity	Screening	48-50
	Identification	51

### Visual and Performing Arts Ability

#### **Ohio Department of Education**

#### **Performance Rubric and Scales for Visual and Performing Arts Identification**

Dance		Drama	
Screening	20-25	Screening	16-19
Identification	26-30	Identification	20-24
Music		Visual Art	
Screening	14-17	Screening	16-20
Identification	18-21	Identification	21-24

#### **Behavioral Checklists and Rating Scales for Visual and Performing Arts Identification**

GATES-2 Artistic Talent Section Questions 41-50 Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts			
	Screening	90-110	
	Identification	111	

SRBCSS - Part VII for Drama

Screening 54-56  
Identification 57

SRBCSS – Part VI for Music

Screening 37-38  
Identification 39

SRBCSS – Part V for Visual Arts

Screening 59-60  
Identification 61

## Contacts

Western Reserve Local School District  
3765 U.S. Route 20 East  
Collins, Ohio 44826  
419-660-8508

Mr. Rodge Wilson, Superintendent  
rwilson@western-reserve.org  
419-660-8508

Mrs. Mary Schaeffer, Curriculum Advisor  
mschaeffer@western-reserve.org  
419-660-8429

Ms. Lisa Border, Middle/High School Principal  
lborder@western-reserve.org  
419-668-8470

Mr. Chris Sheldon, Assistant Middle/High School Principal  
csheldon@western-reserve.org  
419-668-8470

Mrs. Melanie Conaway, Elementary Principal  
mconaway@western-reserve.org  
419-660-9824

Mrs. Jennifer Cornelison, Assistant Elementary Principal  
jcornelison@western-reserve.org  
419-660-9824

North Point Educational Service Center  
Susie Capucini, Gifted Services Coordinator  
scapucini@npesc.org  
419-627-3949