

Gifted Education at MPLSD: Facts for Families, Students, and Staff



Who is "Gifted"?

Gifted students are defined in the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01) as those who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment.

What is Giftedness?

The National Association of Gifted Children explains giftedness as follows:

"Giftedness, intelligence, and talent are fluid concepts and may look different in different contexts and cultures. Even within schools you will find a range of beliefs about the word "gifted," which has become a term with multiple meanings and much nuance.

Gifted children may develop asynchronously: their minds are often ahead of their physical growth, and specific cognitive and social-emotional functions can develop unevenly. Some gifted children with exceptional aptitude may not demonstrate outstanding levels of achievement due to environmental circumstances such as limited opportunities to learn as a result of poverty, discrimination, or cultural barriers; due to physical or learning disabilities; or due to motivational or emotional problems. This dichotomy between potential for and demonstrated achievement has implications for schools as they design programs and services for gifted students.

NAGC does not subscribe to any one theory of the nature of human abilities or their origins. We assert that there are children who demonstrate high performance, or who have the potential to do so, and that we have a responsibility to provide optimal educational experiences to fully develop talents in as many children as possible, for the benefit of the individual and the community."

How are students identified as "Gifted"?

All public schools in Ohio, with the exception of "community schools," are required to identify gifted students in kindergarten through grade 12. Students are identified as gifted in one or more of four major categories: superior cognitive ability; specific academic ability; creative thinking ability; and visual or performing arts ability. There are four fields included in specific academic ability: mathematics; science; social studies; and reading or writing, or a combination of these two skills. Identification is accomplished by using scores on approved performance assessments and nationally normed tests. For assessments typically used at Madison-Plains, please see the [MADISON-PLAINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY AND PLAN FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE GIFTED](#).

Also for gifted identification purposes, Madison-Plains will honor qualifying scores on approved tests administered within the last 24 months by a licensed school psychologist or psychologist in private practice. Once children are identified as gifted by an Ohio public school, they are considered identified as gifted in any other Ohio public school. Therefore, when moving from an Ohio school district to Madison-Plains, parents should make sure the former district notifies the new school that their child is gifted and also transfers the child's gifted identification information.

How do I refer a child for identification?

Parents, teachers, and students have the right to request that a child be screened for possible gifted identification. This request is known as a referral. There are two windows of opportunity for such testing each year: September 1-September 30 and January 1-January 31. Assessment will be completed within 90 days of referral. Those wishing to refer a child for gifted screening and identification should complete the [MPLSD Gifted Referral Form](#) and send it to Karen Grigsby, Gifted Coordinator at kgrigsby@mplsd.org or by mail at 55 Linson Road, London, Ohio, 43140.

What services will students who are identified as "Gifted" receive?

In Ohio, districts are required to identify gifted students. However, school districts are not required to provide gifted education services. Currently, the state provides school districts with partial funding for identifying gifted students and employing or contracting gifted education staff. Madison-Plains provides a "continuum of services" to serve the diverse needs of gifted students using a variety of approaches to address the unique learning needs of gifted students, including: offering advanced courses; differentiated instruction in regular classroom cluster groups with support from a gifted intervention specialist; Advanced Placement (AP) courses; College Credit Plus (CCP); whole-grade and subject area acceleration; and Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

All gifted education services provided to a student are guided by a Written Education Plan (WEP). The WEP describes the services to be provided to the student, identifies who will provide these services, establishes learning goals and evaluation methods, and sets a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision. Madison-Plains provides a copy of the WEP to parents and teachers.

Many gifted high school students benefit from Advance Placement (AP) courses and the College Credit Plus program (CCP). CCP allows high school students to take courses from community colleges, colleges and universities while simultaneously earning high school and college credit. Madison-Plains provides CCP options both on and off campus. The high school guidance counselor can provide more information about CCP.

For additional information about the specific services provided at Madison-Plains, please see the [MADISON-PLAINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY AND PLAN FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE GIFTED](#).

Where can I learn more about Gifted Education?

Our district's gifted coordinator, Karen Grigsby, is the best source of current information about gifted services, identification procedures and other opportunities for gifted students in your district. Our gifted coordinator and gifted intervention specialist, Christina Finney, provide parent information nights each year so that parents can learn strategies and opportunities from each other to meet their gifted children's special needs, and work collaboratively to support and improve local gifted education. If you are not satisfied with decisions made about gifted screening or placements in gifted services, you have a right to an appeal. Again, please contact the Gifted Coordinator for information about local appeals policies and procedures.

Contact information:

Karen Grigsby, Gifted Coordinator:

MPLSD 55 Linson Road, London, Ohio 43140; kgrigsby@mplsd.org; 740-490-0639

Christina Finney, Gifted Intervention Specialist:

MPLSD 800 Linson Road, London, Ohio 43140; cfinney@mplsd.org

Resources on the Web

The ODE Web site contains many useful documents for parents. To access each page from the home page at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>, type the keywords below in the site search box. Following is a list of commonly accessed materials and the keyword for finding them online.

Web Page Name Search Term

- Gifted Operating Standards gifted operating standards
- Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners acceleration
- Identification: Who is Gifted in Ohio by Law and Rule? gifted law
- Written Education Plans (WEPs) for Gifted Students WEP
- Handbooks for Identification of Students Who Are Gifted in the Visual and Performing Arts
- Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children
- Educating Gifted Students with Disabilities: The Twice Exceptional Guide
- Complaint Procedures for Gifted Education gifted complaints
- Cutoff Scores for the Identification of Gifted Students
- Using Assessment Instruments Approved for Above- Grade-Level Testing
- Chart of Approved Assessment Instruments for Gifted Screening and Identification

Parents and teachers also may find useful information on the following Web sites:

- Ohio Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.oagc.com/>
- National Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.nagc.org/>
- National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented:
<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/NRCGT.html>
- Midwest Talent Search - Center for Talent Development:
<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/>
- Belin-Blank Center: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/>