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## ***DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE POLICY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED***

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### **Information for Parents**



### **Garfield Heights City School District**

5640 Briarcliff Drive  
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125  
(216) 475-8100

[www.garfieldheightscityschools.com](http://www.garfieldheightscityschools.com)

### **IDENTIFICATION**

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- The district screens students through the referral process for gifted identification. All assessment instruments employed by the district to screen/identify students as exhibiting superior cognitive, achievement, creative thinking, and visual or performing arts ability are approved by the Ohio Department of Education guidelines and are valid for specific purposes and the populations for which they are used.
- When a student scores at, or above, the identification score during gifted screening, s/he will be *identified* as gifted, in that area, without further testing. Students who score below the identification score, but at, or above, the designated *screening* cut-off score during the referral process, will be retested in that specific area as a verifying measure. If whole grade-level testing is administered, parent permission for retesting will be requested for those students who performed at, or above, the screening cut-off score established by the district.
- The district provides two opportunities per year for the screening/identification of gifted students who have been recommended for assessment by teachers, parents, other children, or by self-referral. Fall referrals shall be submitted to the building principal by the last school day in October, while spring referrals shall be submitted by the last school day in March. Gifted Identification Referral forms can be found on the district website and are also available in every school's main office.
- To help ensure equal access to gifted identification and services, students who are culturally diverse, who are economically disadvantaged, who have a disability, who have motor or sensory impairments, who have spoken language impairment, or who might be Limited English Proficient are screened and assessed using appropriately designed testing instruments (including non-verbal instruments or instruments created in the student's native language, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so). Students with an IEP or 504 will receive the appropriate accommodations as specified on the student's plan.
- All gifted testing instruments are administered by qualified personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- Parents/guardians will be notified, in writing within thirty days of receipt of screening results if a student has been identified as gifted. In addition, parents/guardians of students involved in the gifted referral process will be informed of results within thirty days after the completion of all assessment results, which could include additional testing should the student score at, or above, the established screening cut-off score(s).
- Any child transferring into the district will be assessed within ninety days of the transfer, at the request of the parent.

- The district will accept scores on assessment instruments provided by other districts, or trained personnel outside the district, provided the assessment instruments are on the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education under section 3324.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- A parent/guardian may appeal any decision(s) about the results of any screening procedure or assessment, or the scheduling of children for assessment, by contacting the appropriate building principal.

NOTE: Please see the “*Assessment Instruments Used for Gifted Identification*” pamphlet for the District’s Screening and Identification Criteria.

## **SERVICES**

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The goal of the gifted program is to provide enriched opportunities that replace, supplement, or extend learning beyond the standard curriculum and that incorporate different modes of instruction. These opportunities are designed to encourage and develop creative and critical thinking, provide practice in problem formation and solution, develop responsibility to self and others, and encourage a desire for life-long learning.

The Garfield City School District ensures equal opportunity for all district students who meet the criteria for gifted identification to receive the following services offered by the district.

### **Middle School:**

Students who meet the criteria for gifted identification in math and/or reading and/or superior cognitive area(s) may be served in a clustered classroom setting where the curriculum is advanced and differentiated to meet their needs.

Students, or parents/guardians of students, may request a withdrawal from gifted services. Once the request has been made to school personnel, a meeting with the appropriate stakeholders, including the parent/guardian, may be scheduled.

Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to appeal any decision(s) concerning placement of a student into gifted services.

## **WRITTEN EDUCATION PLAN (WEP)**

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- Each WEP will contain a description of the service(s) being provided, the annual goals specific to that service, and the methods to be used for evaluating the student’s progress.
- Parents/guardians will receive written notification of the student’s progress on the comments section of the district’s report card for that grade level.
- The WEP will include the name of the staff member(s) responsible for ensuring the delivery of each gifted service prescribed.
- Students who are pulled out of regular education classrooms for gifted services activities are responsible for major concepts and tests missed in the classroom. Gifted services teachers and general education teachers work cooperatively regarding communication about assignments and/or tests to insure student’s success in both the general education classroom and participation in enrichment activities.
- The WEP will be reviewed and revised, as appropriate, on an annual basis by fall parent/teacher conference period each subsequent school year..
- A copy of the WEP will be made available to the parents/guardians, as well as the staff responsible for providing the services listed.

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