

3301-51-15 Operating standards for identifying and serving gifted students.

(A) All minimum standards for elementary and secondary schools shall be followed for students who are gifted.

(B) Identification

- (1) Districts must ensure that screening and identification procedures for gifted students are comprehensive, consistent and inclusive.
- (2) A district's identification criteria and procedures shall be consistent with Chapter 3324 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (3) Regardless of the grade levels where gifted services are offered, districts must provide at least two opportunities per year for gifted identification testing in grades K-12 if students request testing or are referred by parents, teachers or other students.
- (4) Districts must recognize scores from any test approved by the department of education for gifted identification.
- (5) If the accommodations in a student's IEP or 504 Plan are not consistent with a test's allowable accommodations, a comparable test shall be used for that student.
- (6) In order to assure inclusion in screening and assessment procedures for all students, including minority and disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students for whom English is a second language, districts shall:
 - (a) In the areas of superior cognitive ability, math, reading, science and social studies, conduct yearly at least one whole grade screening in grade band K-3 and at least one whole grade screening in grade band 3-6;
 - (b) Include in the district's plan an explanation for parents of how the district assures the equitable inclusion of all students in the referral and identification process.
- (7) Districts shall report to the department all screening and identification data using guidelines prescribed by the department of education.

(C) Services

- (1) Where gifted services are reported to the department:
 - (a) Services shall be ongoing for the duration of the course and shall occur during the typical instructional day with flexibility allowed for district-approved internships or mentorships and higher education coursework, including credit flexibility;
 - (b) Criteria for gifted services shall be based on objective data. All district students who meet the written criteria for a gifted service shall be provided an equal opportunity to receive that service;
 - (c) Curriculum may be adapted to address a range of advanced ability levels consistent with the student's area of identification through the use of differentiation including enhancement, extension and acceleration;

- (d) Service providers shall employ diverse and effective instructional practices according to the student's identified abilities, readiness, interests, and learning profiles, to address a range of learning needs at all levels.
- (2) Services shall be provided by one or more of the following:
- (a) A gifted intervention specialist;
 - (b) An educator who has met district-determined criteria that specifies sufficient knowledge to provide appropriate and effective instruction to gifted students, as well as assist in the gifted identification process.
 - (c) An individual with specialized skills required to implement the student's gifted service where the service includes an internship, mentorship or higher education coursework, including credit flexibility.
- (3) Gifted services shall be guided by a Written Education Plan and shall be based upon the student's area(s) of identification and individual needs.
- (a) A student's written education plan shall:
 - i. Be developed in collaboration with a gifted intervention specialist or an educator who has met the district-determined criteria;
 - ii. List the staff member(s) providing the service and shall provide documentation of the service including goals, evaluation measures, and settings;
 - iii. Include curricular and instructional practices which support the student's social and emotional needs;
 - iv. Include ongoing formative and summative assessments to differentiate instruction and to evaluate student progress toward goals;
 - v. Specify policies regarding missed assignments and testing while participating in gifted services provided outside the general education classroom; and
 - vi. Specify a date for reporting and reviewing progress.
 - (b) A copy of the written education plan shall be provided to students, to parents and to any service provider listed on the plan.

(D) Funding

- (1) Districts shall report to the department the amount of funds spent on gifted education using guidelines prescribed by the department of education.
- (2) The department, no later than October 30 each year, shall publish on its website district expenditures for gifted education.
- (3) Where educational service centers receive gifted unit funding, units must be assigned to qualified gifted coordinators or qualified gifted intervention specialists as follows:

- (a) Gifted coordinators must have gifted licensure and, if assigned to supervise staff, must have administrative licensure;
- (b) Gifted intervention specialists must have gifted licensure;
- (c) Units for gifted intervention specialists may be allocated to educational service centers where qualified gifted coordinator services are available.

(E) Accountability

- (1) The district shall submit its identification and service plan to the department for review and approval.
- (2) The plan shall include the identification process used by the district, a description of the gifted services offered by the district, and an explanation of the district's gifted criteria used to determine educators are appropriately trained to provide gifted service.
- (3) The department shall provide technical assistance to any district whose plan does not meet these requirements.
- (4) Prior to the beginning of each school year, the district shall distribute its approved identification and service plan to parents.
- (5) Districts and buildings will be evaluated on local report cards by an indicator. The indicator shall reflect the level of service provided by districts, the performance of gifted students on state assessments, and the value-added growth measure for students.
- (6) The district shall prepare an annual report on the number of students screened, the number of students assessed, and the number identified as gifted in each category. The report shall be submitted to the department by July fifteenth of each year.