

Evaluation for Gifted Identification

The Ohio Department of Education requires through HB 282 that school districts provide at least two opportunities a year for gifted identification in the following areas:

- Superior cognitive ability
- Specific academic ability (reading, math, science, and social studies)
- Creative thinking ability
- Visual and performing arts (visual art, music, dance, and drama)

How is a student identified as gifted in Ohio in these areas?

Superior cognitive ability – An *ability test*, usually referred to as an intelligence, or IQ test, is used to evaluate a student's general ability to succeed in a school setting and is used for superior cognitive ability gifted identification.

An *aptitude test* indicates a student's potential to learn new material in a specific subject, the content of which typically has not been taught in school. Results from an above-grade level achievement test is an excellent indicator of aptitude in a specific content area. An above-grade level achievement test is considered to be a measure of *aptitude*, not achievement, and is used in referrals for acceleration.

Specific academic ability – An *achievement test* represents the degree to which a student has learned specific subject matter. An achievement test is given for identification in reading, math, science, or social studies.

Creative Thinking Ability – Creative thinking includes the ability to come up with innovative ideas, non-conventional approaches to problem solving, and being able to examine things from new or different perspectives. Gifted identification scores from both an approved checklist of creative behaviors and a cognitive abilities test are required to determine giftedness in creative thinking ability.

Visual and Performing Arts – Gifted identification in art, music, dance, or drama involves a two step process. To be identified gifted in visual art, music, dance, or drama, a student must score in the identification range on both an approved behavior checklist and a display of work portfolio or a performance evaluation.

For qualifying scores for gifted identification, see the test list on this web link at the end of the *District Policy and Plan for the Identification of Children Who Are Gifted*. Students with scores in the screening range on the test list shall be retested.

Although gifted identification is mandated in the state of Ohio, gifted service is not required. Little Miami School District has made a commitment to serve gifted students through modifications in the curriculum and higher-level courses.