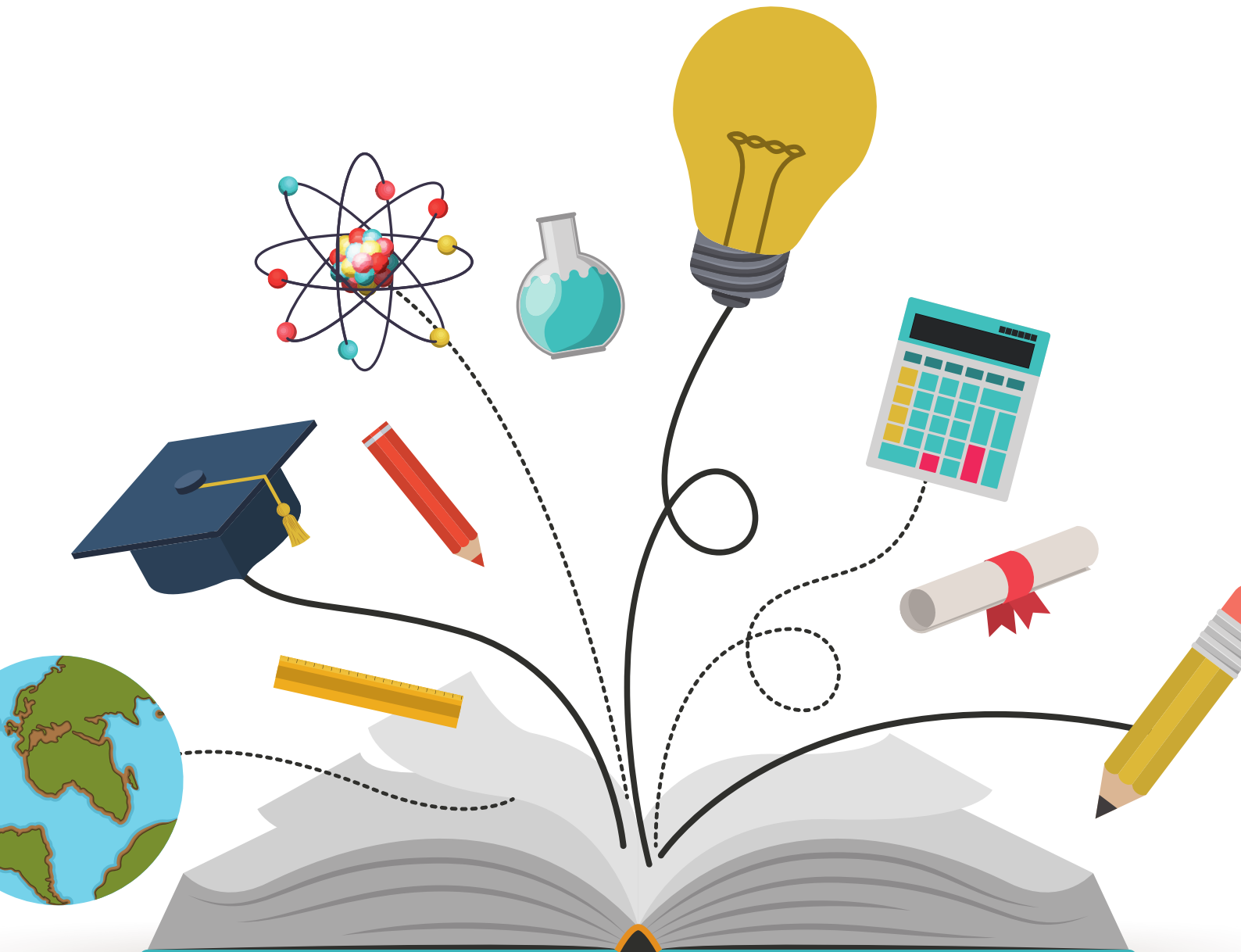




# LIBERTY CENTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

## DISTRICT GIFTED EDUCATION POLICY

### Information for Parents



# GIFTED IDENTIFICATION

## *Definition*

"Gifted" means 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 children identified in Ohio?*

Ohio law requires each school district to identify gifted students K-12 in the following areas:

- **Superior Cognitive Ability:** A student shall be identified as exhibiting "superior cognitive ability" if the student did either of the following within the preceding twenty-four months:
  - (i) Scored two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual standardized intelligence test administered by a licensed or certified school psychologist or licensed psychologist; or
  - (ii) Accomplished any one of the following:
    - (a) Scored at least two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved standardized group intelligence test;
    - (b) Performed at or above the ninety-fifth percentile on an approved individual or group standardized basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test; or
    - (c) Attained an approved score on one or more above grade-level standardized, nationally normed approved tests.
- **Creative Thinking Ability:** A student shall be identified as exhibiting "creative thinking ability" superior to a student of a similar age, if within the previous twenty-four 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:
  - (i) Attained a sufficient score, as established by the department of education, on an approved individual or group test of creative ability; or
  - (ii) Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by the department of education, on an approved checklist by a trained individual of creative behaviors.
- **Specific Academic Ability:** 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 twenty-four months the student performed at or above the ninety-fifth 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.
  - *Reading/Writing*
  - *Math*
  - *Science*
  - *Social Studies*
- **Visual & Performing Art:** A student shall be identified as exhibiting "visual or performing arts ability" superior to that of students of similar age if the student has done both of the following:
  - (i) Demonstrated to a trained individual through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area; and
  - (ii) Exhibited to a trained individual sufficient performance, as established by the department of education, on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area.
    - *Dance*
    - *Drama*
    - *Music (Instrumental and/or Choral)*
    - *Visual Arts*

## *The Identification Steps:*

The state of Ohio requires districts to assess students to determine giftedness in both superior cognitive abilities as well as specific academic abilities in both the K-2 and 3-6 grade bands. Liberty Center Elementary School uses the NWEA MAP assessment in grades 2-4 to identify students for giftedness in Reading and Math. Liberty Center Middle School uses the iReady assessment in grades 5-8 to identify students for giftedness in Reading and Math. These diagnostic assessments are given three times a year (fall, winter, spring). The ACT can also be used to determine giftedness in reading/writing, math, and science.

Assessment strategies provide additional data necessary for an identification decision and the delivery of services. Strategies for additional assessment include the individual and group testing requirements of Sections 3324.01-3324.07 of the Ohio Revised Code. Once qualified school personnel have completed the assessment, the data obtained throughout the stages of identification are evaluated, the identification decision is made and the student's educational needs are determined. Parents will be notified of testing results within 30 days of the district receiving the scores.

## **Special Populations**

The district does not discriminate and ensures that special populations are included in screening and assessment procedures. Appropriate instruments are used so that children who are culturally and linguistically diverse, minority and/or children who are limited English proficient, children from low socioeconomic status, and children with disabilities are included.

## **General and Transfer Students**

The district accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education provided by other school districts and/or trained personnel outside the school district. The district ensures that any child transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the written request of the parent.

## *Appeal Procedures:*

Parents have an opportunity to appeal any decision about the results of any screening procedure or the scheduling of children for assessment, or the placement of a student in any program for the receipt of services. An appeal by the parent is the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process that would include;

- Screening procedures or assessment instrument (which results in identification);
- The scheduling of children for assessment;
- The placement of a student in any program; and
- Receipt of services.

Parents should submit a letter to the superintendent or building administrator outlining the nature of the concern. The superintendent or building administrator will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, and may include other school personnel. The superintendent or building administrator will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice will include the reason for the decision(s).

## *Services*

Liberty Center Local Schools ensure equal opportunity for all students identified as gifted to receive services offered by the district. Students are selected for gifted services based on identification from Ohio Department of Education approved instruments in cognitive, specific academic, creative thinking ability, and/or the visual and performing arts.

**Gifted Education Services may include the following:**

**Cluster Grouping  
Differentiated Curriculum  
Accelerated Coursework  
Grade Level Acceleration  
Independent Study  
College Credit Plus  
Mentorships**

**And other options identified in rules adapted by the Ohio Department of Education**

## *Written Education Plans*

**All students receiving gifted services have a Written Education Plan (WEP) that meets the Ohio Department of Education requirements. Each WEP provides a description of the services to be provided for individual students including goals in each service specified, including, but not limited to, academic goals, methods for evaluating progress toward achieving the specified goals, and methods and schedule for reporting progress to students. Each WEP specifies staff members responsible for ensuring that specified services are delivered. A WEP will be provided to parents of all served students.**

## *Referrals*

**The district ensures there are ample and appropriate scheduling procedures for assessments (at least twice per year) and reassessing using items from the following list which have been approved by the Ohio Department of Education:**

**Group tests  
Individually-administered tests  
Checklists  
Audition, performance  
Display of work  
Exhibition**

**At Liberty Center Local Schools, each child is *challenged* to discover and learn, *prepared* to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and *empowered* to become resilient, lifelong learners who contribute to society.**

## *District Contacts*

### **Superintendent:**

Richard A. Peters  
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### **Middle School Principal:**

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### **Director of Student Services:**

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### **Elementary Principal:**

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### **High School Principal:**

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### **Liberty Center Local Schools**

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