

Honors, Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus

Students identified as gifted in reading, math, science, or social studies are served in Honors, Advanced Placement, and/or College Credit Plus classes at Findlay High School.

- 9th grade Honors and College Credit Plus classes:
 - Math: 82% on an Ohio Department of Education approved achievement test
 - Reading: 80% on an Ohio Department of Education approved achievement test
 - Science: 80% on an Ohio Department of Education approved achievement test
 - Social Studies: 80% on an Ohio Department of Education approved achievement test
- 10th - 12th Grade Honors, Advanced Placement, and College Credit Plus classes:
 - Students having taken prerequisite classes may continue on with the next course.

Methods to Ensure Equal Access Under the Law

Findlay City Schools ensures equal opportunity for all students identified as gifted to receive services offered by the district. Equal access is provided via whole group testing in grades 2, 5, and 8.

Description of Gifted Services

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) is a one-day a week pull-out program for students in grades 3 - 5.

REACH (Reaching, Enriching, Accelerating, Caring, Helping) is a program for Findlay City Schools middle school students (grades 6 - 8). These students participate in an accelerated reading and language arts block class.

In addition, advanced classes are offered in math and science at middle school. Honors, Advanced Placement, and College Credit Plus courses are offered for students identified as gifted in reading, math, science, or social studies at Findlay High School.

District Enrichment Plan

Enrichment is any activity purposely designed to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, issues, occupations, hobbies, persons, places and/or events. For Findlay City Schools these include: Creativity Clubs, Space Club, Engineering, Robotics, Computer Programming, Chinese, Japanese, Enrichment Clusters, Junior Scholars (College/Career Program), and Honors Career Mentorship.

Withdrawal Process

If at any time, a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services, the request is written by the parent/guardian or child to the gifted coordinator. If a child requests to withdraw, parents/guardians are notified.

Written Educational Plan

Every gifted student who is in STEAM, REACH, advanced middle school classes and Advanced Placement, Honors, or College Credit Plus classes has a Written Education Plan (WEP).

The WEP:

- provides a description of the services provided.
- lists individual goals the student will work on throughout the year.
- indicates how progress will be evaluated.
- includes a schedule for reporting progress to parents and a deadline date for the next review.

The Gifted Intervention Specialist or teacher trained as a gifted services provider ensures delivery of services in the program. The waiver of assignments and rescheduling of tests policy is included on the child's WEP. Parents/ Guardians receive a copy of the WEP listing the staff responsible for the listed service at the fall conference with their child's Gifted Intervention Specialist, regular classroom teacher, or through the mail.

For more information, contact

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Findlay City Schools Policy and Procedures for the Identification and Services for Gifted Students



Identification

Findlay City Schools follows the identification eligibility criteria as specified in Ohio law. The District identifies gifted students in kindergarten through grade 12 as those who perform at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to other students of the same age, experience, and environment, as identified under Ohio law.

Accordingly, a student can be identified as exhibiting:

- Superior cognitive ability
- Specific academic ability in one or more of the following content areas:
 - Mathematics;
 - Science;
 - Reading, writing or a combination of these skills and/or
 - Social studies
- Creative thinking ability and/or
- Visual or performing arts ability such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance or drama.

Pre-Assessment

The pre-assessment part of the process involves gathering student data from a variety of sources including teacher, parent/guardian, peer nominations, grades, portfolios, observations, review of student records, and outstanding products or performances. All students are involved in the pre-assessment stage.

By using the pre-assessment process, the district ensures equal access to screening children, including minority or disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners.

Assessment for Screening

The screening stage examines the data gathered from the pre-assessment stage and determines if additional assessment is necessary. In making decisions about additional assessment, existing test data for students is not the sole determining criteria. School personnel examine all available information about a student to determine if any evidence of possible giftedness exists for that student and conduct necessary additional assessment.

District-determined cut-off scores are lower than the scores necessary for identification to move students from the screening stage to the assessment stage. Parents/guardians must be notified within 30 days of the results of screening.

Assessment for Identification

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 Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15.

Once additional assessment has been completed, the data obtained throughout the stages of identification is evaluated, the identification decision is made and the student's educational needs are determined. A student identified as gifted in accordance with Ohio law remains identified as gifted regardless of subsequent testing or classroom performance.

Two Opportunities a Year for Assessment

Findlay City Schools provides two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents, guardians, or other children.

Referral

Children may be referred in writing on an ongoing basis, based on child request (self-referral), teacher recommendation, parent/guardian request, child referral of peers, and others (psychologist, community members, principal, gifted coordinator, et cetera). Upon receipt of a referral, the district will follow the process as outlined in this brochure and notify parents/guardians of results of screening, assessment and testing results.

Special Testing Situations

The *Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices* or *Cognitive Abilities Test Non-Verbal Battery* is used to assess students who are minority, disadvantaged students, have a disability, and/or English learners. School psychologists administer the non-verbal component in the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fifth Edition* to students with physical and/or sensory disabilities.

Findlay City Schools has not needed to give a test to a student in his/her native language, but if the need arises we will find someone to give the test who speaks the child's language.

Test Administration

Gifted coordinators, trained professionals, and school psychologists give tests individually or in small groups to potentially gifted students using tests on the Ohio Department of Education approved list of tests.

Procedures for Assessment of Transfer Students

The Findlay City Schools ensures that any child transferring into our district is assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent/guardian. Parents/ Guardians share gifted information at the Welcome Center and/or contact the building principal who contacts the Gifted Coordinator.

Acceptance of Outside Testing Data

Findlay City Schools 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 district.

Appeals Process

An appeal by the parent/guardian is the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process, which would include the screening procedure or assessment instrument, scheduling of a child for assessment, placement of a student in any program, and/or receipt of services. Parents/Guardians should submit a letter to the superintendent outlining the nature of the concern. The superintendent will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel. The superintendent or designee will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice should include the reason(s) for the decision.

Services and Criteria for Determining Eligibility

All District gifted education services are delivered in accordance with Ohio law.

STEAM Placement

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) is a one-day a week pull-out program for students in grades 3 - 5 identified in math and/or science in Findlay City Schools. Students are identified for the program using a matrix consisting of points for high scores in the following areas.

- **Achievement Scores:**
Math Total (95%) or Science Total (95%)
- **CSI:** 110

REACH Placement

Findlay City Schools middle school students (grades 6 - 8) who are identified as gifted in reading can participate in an accelerated reading and language arts block class. Students are identified for the class using a matrix consisting of points for high scores in the following areas:

- **Achievement Scores:**
Reading Total (95%) and Language Total ((90%)
- **CSI:** 120

Middle School Clusters and Advanced Classes

Students identified on the matrix are clustered in advanced math and science classes at middle school. Math and science achievement scores, respectively, as well as cognitive ability scores are used, within 24 months, from the Ohio Department of Education approved list of tests. A total of 4 points is needed for placement in each of these classes.

- **Math/Science:**
 - 84-89th percentile = 1 point;
 - 90-94th percentile = 2 points;
 - 95th percentile and above = 3 points
- **Cognitive:**
 - 112-119 = 1 point;
 - 120-126 = 2 points;
 - 127 and above = 3 points