

Windham Exempted Village Schools

Parent Information Regarding Policy, Procedures and Plans for the Identification and Service of Children Who Are Gifted

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. Windham Exempted Village Schools follows the identification criteria as specified in Section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students.

DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION PLAN & PROCESS

The district performs whole grade testing sweeps, accepts referrals, screens and identifies, or screens and reassesses students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability, and/or visual and/or performing arts. The district follows policy and procedures established in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15. Assessment instruments must come from the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

A whole-grade superior cognitive ability testing sweep occurs each fall for all students in grades 2 and 5. The Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, Third Edition (NNAT3), is administered to these students for the purposes of gifted identification. Students who score in the identification range on the NNAT3 (second grade: at/above 126; fifth grade: at/above 125) will be identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability per state guidelines. Students who score in the screening range on the NNAT3 (second grade: 122 - 125; fifth grade: 121 - 124) will be retested with the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

A whole-grade specific academic testing sweep occurs each fall, winter and spring in grades 2 through 5. iReady Diagnostics are administered to these students in the specific subject areas of reading and mathematics. Those students who score at or above the 95%ile in a specific academic area on iReady Diagnostics will be identified as gifted in that specific subject as per state guidelines. Students scoring in the 93 - 94%ile on iReady Diagnostics will be retested using Iowa Assessments.

These whole-grade screening/administrations ensure that ALL students in each grade are equitably included in the identification process. All testing results will be shared with parents within 30 days of receipt by the district.

Identification also occurs each fall at grade levels 2 and 5 in the area of Creative Thinking Ability. All students grades K – 12 are screened for identification in the Visual and Performing Arts each fall and spring. These procedures have been developed per State Guidelines.

The Windham Exempted Village Schools shall provide at least two opportunities each year (September and May) for assessment in the case of students requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other students. Referrals should be written and presented to the building administrator.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

An appeal by the parent is the reconsideration of the result of any part of the identification process which would include:

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

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

PROGRAMMING FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

Programming for identified gifted students in the Windham Exempted Village Schools includes a variety of coursework and enrichment opportunities offered at many grade levels. These include, but are not limited to:

- Reading/ELA Cluster Group and/or Math Cluster groups in all grades, 2 – 8
- Acceleration opportunities; both subject and grade-level
- Honors and AP (Advanced Placement) classes at the secondary level – (9-12)
- College Coursework available at the secondary level (College Credit Plus, etc.)
- Enrichment Opportunities: Academic Quiz Bowl Team, Academic Challenge Team, Math competitions, Robotics Team, Field Trips, etc. (Enrichments are activities purposely designed to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, occupations, persons, and/or events. They may expand the scope of the regular curriculum or introduce topics not covered in the general education program. Any staff member may be the originator of enrichment, and the student audience will vary depending on interest and ability.

Enrichments are not reported to the Ohio Department of Education as gifted services.)

WRITTEN EDUCATION PLANS

When students identified as gifted are reported to parents and the Ohio Department of Education as served, they must have a Written Education Plan in compliance with the *Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students*. WEPS are developed at the beginning of each school year. The duration of each WEP is one school year.

WITHDRAWAL

If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services the request should be written by the parent or child to the building administrator. If a student writes the request to withdraw, parents will be notified.

If you have any questions regarding gifted identification or programming in the Windham Exempted Village Schools, please contact: Sarah Isler, Coordinator of Gifted Programs, Windham EVS, sisler@windham-schools.org, 330-326-2711