

## GIFTED EDUCATION SERVICES – Academic Program for the Talented

The Three Rivers Local School District is committed to providing learning opportunities, which will enable each student to achieve maximum personal growth and development. Gifted students possess unique learning abilities and talents that require special program services. Giftedness is not a single dimension of ability, but is a multi-dimensional concept; gifted students need direction to recognize their specific abilities and attain maximum development of their talents.

Three Rivers Local School District provides service for identified students in grades 3-7 in a program titled Academic Program for the Talented (APT). APT is a pullout program, the children in APT leave their regular classrooms to participate in appropriate enrichment activities in the APT classroom. Students in grades 3-5 attend APT for a minimum of 225 minutes/weekly and students in grades 6-7 attend for a minimum of 240 minutes/weekly. Varied teaching strategies and program options in APT will foster a zest for learning through the development of thinking skills, research skills, creativity, and affective skills. Educational experiences will be provided which offer opportunities for gifted students to work with intellectual peers.

Placement in APT is made for students in grades 3-7 who meet state guidelines for superior cognitive ability along with advanced achievement and ability scores set by the District. No subjective data (grades, teacher recommendations, or checklists) is used in the decision-making process. The following objective criteria is used for APT placement:

- 1) Total battery achievement scores at or above the 95th percentile on an approved achievement test and an ability index at or above 123, or
- 2) A qualifying score on an approved cognitive ability test and a total battery achievement score at or above the 90th percentile.

APT is an enrichment and extension program designed for students; therefore, this program is an optional program. Through parent permission slips, students are invited to attend at the beginning of each school year. Students may elect to attend and/or if a student wishes to withdraw from the program, parents must request the withdrawal in writing to the central office administrator. All withdrawals are valid for one school year and students will become eligible for and invited to APT the following year.

## APT EDUCATION PLANS

Students participating in the APT Program will have a Written Education Plan (WEP) that includes learning and affective goals. Those goals are based on the APT Course of Study, student needs and interests, as well as classroom projects. Parents will receive a copy of the WEP in the fall. At the end of each semester, APT progress reports will be sent home highlighting student achievement on his/her goals thus far. APT work is informally evaluated by self, peers, and teachers. Additionally, APT students are encouraged to be self-directed learners who stretch to reach their maximum potential.

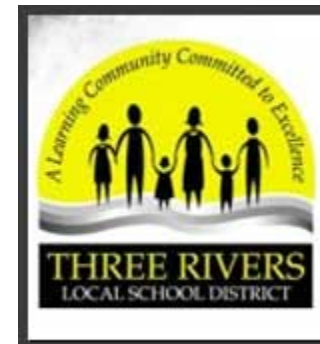
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## ***IDENTIFICATION OF AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED***

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### **Information for Parents**

*In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3324.01-07*



*Effective January 2009*

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## **GIFTED IDENTIFICATION**

According to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3324.01-07, Gifted means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkable high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment.

The Three Rivers Board of Education provides opportunities for gifted students in grades kindergarten through 12 to be identified as follows:

- A. A student shall be identified as exhibiting superior cognitive ability if the student
  - Scored two standard deviations above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual or group standardized intelligence test;
  - Performed at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on an approved individual or group standardized basic or composite battery of a nationally normed achievement test;
  - Attained an approved score on one or more above-grade level standardized, nationally normed approved tests.
- B. A student shall be identified as exhibiting specific academic ability superior to that of children of similar age in a specific academic field if the student scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on an approved standardized achievement test of specific academic ability in the field(s) of mathematics, science, reading/writing, and/or social studies.
- C. A student shall be identified as exhibiting creative thinking ability superior to children of a similar age if the student scored one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved test and also did either of the following:
  - Attained a sufficient score, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved individual or group test of creative ability;
  - Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved checklist of creative behaviors.
- D. A student shall be identified as exhibiting visual or performing arts ability superior to that of children of similar age if the student has demonstrated through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition, superior ability in a visual or performing arts area, and exhibited sufficient performance on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area.

Three Rivers Local School District ensures that all students are provided equal opportunity to be screened for potential giftedness. The District employs the following procedures:

1. The District casts a wide net when looking for potential academic giftedness. Students are whole-grade assessed in second and fourth grades using ability and achievement measures. Second grade screening coincides with the first opportunity for placement in APT and thus provides the district with a comprehensive look at all children.

2. The District provides small group screening opportunities in the fall and spring annually. Students referred for assessment by teachers, parents, self or other students will be offered opportunities to be assessed for giftedness. Gifted referral forms are available on the District website as well as in school offices. Furthermore, District residents and employees are notified annually of their ability to refer for gifted screening in print and electronic forums.
3. The District reviews the cumulative records of all students transferring into the District. Those students meeting the criteria for gifted identification and/or APT service are notified. Additionally, parents of transfer students may request screening and the student will be assessed within 90 days of that referral.
4. Upon submission, the District accepts scores on approved instruments provided by other school districts or trained personnel outside the school district; this includes but is not limited to private schools, talent search organizations and testing facilities.
5. In each area of gifted identification, the District uses qualified employees when screening students. Personnel may include educational evaluators, counselors, psychologists, and/or educators with licenses in the visual/performing arts. These employees are trained in the use of the assessment(s) and have access to personnel licensed in gifted education. Furthermore, the District utilizes individually administered assessments when student need is established and is deemed in the best educational interest of the student.
6. The District is aware of the unique assessment needs of diverse students. Every effort is made to administer the most appropriate assessment to every student; this includes individual tests, tests with non-verbal components, tests in the student's native language, additional follow-up assessments, as well as tests valid for special populations. District personnel select from a wide range of available assessments and consult the instrument's technical manual for assurance of use with diverse populations.
7. A comprehensive list of the assessment used within the District is found as an insert to this resource. The complete list of approved instruments can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website.
8. The District provides parents with written notification of any assessment results within 30 days of receiving those results. Additionally, District personnel providing regular classroom instructing and/or services to identified students are notified of the students' areas of giftedness. When APT service criteria is met, students are placed as soon as possible with regard to natural educational breaks (grading periods, end of instructional units, etc.).
9. Parents may to appeal in writing the assessments results, the scheduling of their student for assessment, or the placement of their student in any service. Those appeals must be received within 30 days of the District's notification of results. Appeals are sent to the District Gifted Administrator at Central Office. The District will work with the parents to resolve those appeals; however, District timelines for screening as well as criteria for service will be followed.