

## Is my student gifted?

Ohio Revised Code for education states that students are identified as gifted when he or she “performs or shows potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under” superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability and/or visual or performing arts ability.

## What gifted services do the Madison Schools provide ?

Our program is designed to be flexible, allowing us to best meet the needs of students identified as gifted. At the upper elementary and middle school levels, our gifted coordinator works with our regular classroom teachers to ensure that higher level questioning and rigor are embedded within their work in the classroom. High school students are served through Dual Enrollment, the Post-Secondary Education Option, or other college courses.

Madison also uses leveling and flexible grouping of students within the classroom. These systems ensure that differentiated learning opportunities are provided on a regular basis for each student.

In addition, students who are gifted may have the opportunity to compete in friendly intra and interschool competitions in the areas of spelling, mathematics and/or all around academic challenges. These are dependent on outside establishments and may include additional practice.

## What if I do not agree with how the identification process was followed for my student?

At any point the parent or guardian can appeal the student’s results for reconsideration. This could be tied to the identification procedure, assessment instruments, the scheduling of assessments, placement of students in a program, and/or services received.

Parents should submit a letter to the superintendent, who will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel.

The superintendent will issue a written final decision within 30 days of appeal. This written notice will include the reason for the decision. If the parent or guardian requests additional or outside testing, expenses will not be incurred by Madison Local Schools.

## More questions?

Contact your building principal:

Madison Comprehensive High School  
419-589-2112

Madison Junior High School  
419-522-0471

Eastview Elementary  
419-589-7335

Mifflin Elementary  
419-589-6517

Madison South Elementary  
419-522-4319

MADISON  
Local School  
District

Gifted &  
Talented  
Program

## How are students identified?

The Madison Schools use several avenues to identify potentially gifted students which include:

- whole grade national standardized testing (grades 2, 5, 8 and 10)
- individually-administered assessments
- audition, performance
- display of work, exhibition
- mastery/competency checklists

In addition, students may be referred for further testing in several ways:

- teacher recommendations
- parent/guardian request
- self-referral
- peer (student) referral
- other (psychologist, community member, principal, etc.)

The district will provide at least two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of children recommended for assessment.

## How are students assessed?

Whole-grade assessments are provided at several grade levels; otherwise, data is collected from various sources (see above). This ensures equal access for all students.

For specific state-approved instruments and the scores required, see the brochure *Assessment Instruments Used for Gifted Identification*.

The process of identifying students through multiple sources has been structured to ensure all students are given equal opportunities to showcase their talents. In addition, approved written instruments are available in other languages at the request of parents.

## How will I know the results of an assessment?

With formal, whole-grade testing, parents or guardians will receive an individual student report outlining the results of the assessment.

In the case of referrals, parents or guardians will need to give permission to test the student and will be sent test results within thirty days of the assessment.

## What if we just transferred from another district?

The Madison Local Schools accept all 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.

Any child transferring into the Madison District will be assessed within ninety days of the transfer at the request of a parent to the building principal. Following this time, students will automatically be included in the normal referral process used for all students in the district.

## How do I accelerate my student?

If you believe your student would benefit from whole-grade or subject-specific acceleration, contact the building principal. Upon receipt of your request, a form will be sent to you that will initiate a meeting involving your child's teachers, the building principal, and the parents to articulate a plan to determine if and how acceleration will be implemented.

Once a student has been subject or whole grade accelerated, s/he will continue on that pathway unless it is determined not to be beneficial to the student. Should a student wish to withdraw (or re-enroll within the same year) from (to) a gifted service, the request should be written by the parent or student to the building principal. Should a student initiate the request to withdraw, parents or guardians will be notified. The request will go through a committee for a final decision.

## How is student growth monitored?

Teachers strive to provide differentiated learning opportunities for each student in the classroom, and teachers monitor students' growth through periodic assessment. In addition, growth for gifted students is shown in Ohio's Value Added measure for all identified students, as part of the district's Local Report Card. Madison Local Schools recently received the highest score possible in the area of Value Added for gifted students, reflecting the district's commitment to meeting these students' needs.

A Written Education Plan (WEP) is completed for *students being served in a specific program* for giftedness. This document outlines the service(s) provided, the student's goals, the evaluation and reporting process, person(s) responsible, and when the WEP will be reviewed.