

Southeastern Local School District

Parent's Guide to....

- Identification of Gifted Students
- Academic Acceleration
- Early Entrance to School
- Early High School Graduation



YOUNG GIFTED & TALENTED

Gifted Students

The state of Ohio defines a gifted student as one who “performs or shows potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment”

Identification

Students can be identified as gifted in four different areas: super cognitive, in a specific academic area, creative thinking, and visual and performing arts.

A child shall be identified gifted as **super cognitive** if the student:

- Meets the score established by the Ohio Department of Education on a COGAT test.

A child shall be identified gifted in **a specific academic ability** if the student:

- Performs at or above the ninety-fifth (95) percentile at the national level on a standardized achievement test in a specific ability.
- A child may be identified as gifted in one or more specific academic ability.
- The specific academic abilities will include:
 - Math
 - Science
 - Reading, writing, or a combination of the two
 - Social Studies

A child shall be identified gifted in **creative thinking ability** to children of a similar age, if within the previous 24 months the student:

- Scored one standard deviation above the mean, minus the standard error of measurement, on an approved individual or group intelligence tests

AND did one of the following

- Attained a sufficient score, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an improved individual or group test of creative ability OR
- Exhibited sufficient performance, as established by the Ohio Department of Education, on an approved checklist by a trained individual of creative behaviors.

A child shall be identified gifted in **visual and performing arts ability** if the student:

- Demonstrates superior ability in a visual or performing arts area through a display of work, an audition, or other performance or exhibition AND achieves a qualifying score on an approved checklist of behaviors related to a specific arts area.

Testing Cycles

- The COGAT will be given during the fall of the 2nd grade year and again during the fall of the 5th grade year.

- The Terra Nova Test will be given after Jan. 1 in 2nd grade and after Jan. 1 in 6th grade.
- The 1st screening period will occur prior to Dec. 31 and the 2nd screening period will happen prior to June 1.

Recommendations

A parent, student, teacher, or other people associated with the student may request a gifted evaluation for any student at any time by filling out a gifted referral form. These forms are located on the school website. Once the form is filled out it should be returned given to the Director of Student Services.

The district will provide two opportunities per year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment. The first screening will be prior to March 1st and the second screening will be prior to June 1st.

Testing Procedures

Students being assessed for gifted identification shall have appropriate testing instruments administered to them by qualified personnel, including the school psychologist.

Only instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education shall be used for screening, assessment, and identification of children who are gifted.

Students who are being assessed for gifted identification shall have appropriate testing instruments administered in their native language.

Each assessment instrument used to identify giftedness will have a “screening score”. This score would indicate that additional screening is necessary to determine possible gifted services. This process ensures equal access to screening and further assessment by all district children, including culturally or linguistically diverse children, children with low socioeconomic backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children where English is a second language.

Parents will receive notification in writing of assessment scores within thirty (30) days of the receipt of assessment results.

An appeal by the parent may be made for the reconsideration of the results of any part of the identification process. Parents, should submit in writing, the nature of the concern to the Director of Student Services who will convene a meeting with the parent and will issue a final decision and reasons within thirty (30) of receiving the written appeal.

Once a student is identified as gifted in any area, he or she shall be considered a gifted student throughout his or her educational career.

A Written Evaluation Plan (WEP) shall be developed for identified gifted students if the school district has been determined to offer “gifted services” as defined by the Ohio Department of Education.

Student Transfers

Any child transferring into the district will be tested for gifted services within ninety (90) days at the request of the parents.

The district will accept scores provided by other schools or trained personnel outside the school district, as long as the tests were completed within the preceding twenty-four (24) months and were from an assessment instrument approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

Gifted Service Options

- Resource room
- Honors Course
- Advanced placement course
- Grade Acceleration
- Subject Acceleration
- College Credit Plus

Academic Acceleration

Any student residing in the district may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the Director of Student Services for an evaluation of possible acceleration placement. Students may refer themselves or a peer through a staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities. Referral forms are available on the school website.

The Director of Student Services will obtain written permission from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) to evaluate the referred student for accelerated placement. Students being referred and given permission by parent(s)/guardian(s) will be evaluated.

Students referred for evaluation during the school year will ordinarily be completed within forty-five (45) calendar days. Students referred for evaluation after April 15 will be completed within the start of the following school year.

The Woodcock Johnson and the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test are evaluations used for subject acceleration.

The Iowa Acceleration Scale and the Stanford-Binet are the evaluations used for whole grade acceleration and Kindergarten early entrance.

Upon receiving the referral and the student being evaluated, an acceleration committee will determine whether the student will be permitted to accelerate a whole grade or take subject at a higher level.

The acceleration committee will be made up of: the Director of Student Services, the current teacher of the referred student, the teacher to the grade level which the student will be accelerated, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and either the gifted intervention specialist or school psychologist or the guidance counselor.

A decision of a student being academically accelerated will be issued within 45 days of the referral.

If approved for academic acceleration by grade or subject, a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be developed for the student.

The student will participate in a transition period of twenty (20) school days in the new academic setting. The parent, guardian, or child may request that the child be removed from the new academic setting at any time during the transition period. After the transition period has ended, the academic placement shall become permanent.

The parent or guardian may appeal the decision of academic acceleration to the Superintendent within thirty days of being notified of the decision. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and issue his or her final decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

Early Entrance

In general, a student is eligible for entrance into kindergarten if he or she attains the age of five (5) on or before Aug. 1 of the year in which he or she applies. A child is eligible for entrance into first grade if he or she attains the age of six (6) on or before Sept. 30 of the year in which he or she applies and has completed a kindergarten program or the equivalent.

Any student residing in the district may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the Director of Student Services for an evaluation of possible early admission. Students may refer themselves or a peer through a staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities. A Parent's Guide to Early Entrance to Kindergarten guide is available on the school website to assist parents in making the decision to apply to early entrance. The application for early entrance is also available on the school website.

All children who will be of the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall be evaluated upon request of the child's parents or legal guardian. Children who will not be of the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, pre-school educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Children may also be evaluated at the discretion of the principal where the student may be admitted.

Before the student is evaluated for early entrance, the Director of Student Services will obtain written permission from the child's parent/guardian. Students being referred and given permission by parent(s)/guardian(s) will be evaluated.

The Iowa Acceleration Scale and the Stanford-Binet are the evaluations used for whole grade acceleration and Kindergarten early entrance.

Evaluations related to referrals submitted to the school between August 15 and April 15 will be completed and a written report issued within forty five (45) calendar days for the referral date. Evaluations related to referrals submitted to the school between April 16 and August 16 will be completed and a written report issued within forty-five (45) calendar days from the start of the next school year.

Upon receiving the referral and the student being evaluated, an acceleration committee will determine whether the student will be permitted to accelerate a whole grade or take subject at a higher level.

The acceleration committee will be made up of the Director of Student Services, the current teacher of the referred student, the teacher to the grade level which the student will be accelerated, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and either the gifted intervention specialist or school psychologist or the guidance counselor.

If approved for early entrance, a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be developed for the student.

The student will participate in a transition period of twenty (20) school days in the new academic setting. The parent, guardian, or child may request that the child be removed from the new academic setting at any time during the transition period. After the transition period has ended, the academic placement shall become permanent.

The parent or guardian may appeal the decision of early entrance to the Superintendent within thirty (30) days of being notified of the decision. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and issue his or her final decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

If approved for early entrance, a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be developed for the student.

Early High School Graduation

The Board of Education acknowledges that some students seek to pursue educational goals that include graduation from high school at an earlier date than their designated class.

Students interested in graduating early need to fill out an early graduation application form. These forms are available on the school website.

A student who completes the requirements for early high school graduation may participate in the graduation ceremonies with his/her designated class or the class graduating in the year in which s/he completes the district's requirements for high school graduation.

Early High School Graduation –Advanced Learners

Any student residing in the district may be referred for early high school graduation by a staff member or parent/guardian to the Director of Student Services of the district. Student may refer themselves or a peer through a staff member that has knowledge of the referred child's abilities. Copies of the referral forms are available on the school website. The principal of the high school will solicit referral of students for graduation annually and will notify all staff that he/she will supervise the process.

Evaluations related to referrals that occur during the school year will ordinarily be completed and a written report issued within forty-five (45) calendar days. Evaluation related to referrals that occur at the end of the school year or during the summer will be complete and a written report issued either before the end of the school year, if possible, or within forty-five (45) calendar days of the start of the next school year.

Upon receiving the referral and the student being evaluated, an acceleration committee will determine whether the student will be permitted to graduate early.

The acceleration committee will be made up of the Director of Student Services, the current teacher of the referred student, the teacher to the grade level which the student will be accelerated, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and either the gifted intervention specialist or school psychologist or the guidance counselor.

Students measured for early high school graduation shall be evaluated based on past academic performance, measures of achievement based on State academic content standards, and successful completion of State and district mandated graduation requirements as well as the students own thoughts on early graduation.

The committee shall issue a written decision on the outcome of the committee decision to the principal and the parent/guardian.

The parent or guardian may appeal the decision of early graduation to the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days of being notified of the decision. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and issue his or her final decision within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

Southeastern Local School Board Policies

For more information on Southeastern Local School academic acceleration, early entrance, and early high school graduation please refer to the following board policies on the school website at www.sels.us under the NEOLA link.

2464-Gifted Education and Identification

5112-Entrance Requirements

5410-Promotion, Academic Acceleration, Placement, and Retention

5464-Early High School Graduation

Instruments used for Screening and Identification

Superior Cognitive Ability

COGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) Form 7

- Grade 2 (Screen Level = 125; Identification Level = 128)
- Grade 5 (Screen Level = 127; Identification Level = 128)

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Edition

- Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 125; Identification Level = 127)

Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales-5th Edition

- Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 125; Identification Level = 127)

Specific Academic Ability

Terra Nova 3rd Edition Complete Battery

- Grades K-12 (Screen Level 93-94 percentile; Identification Level = 95 percentile +)

Creative Thinking Ability

COGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) Form 7

- Grades K-2 (Screen Level = 109; Identification Level = 112)
- Grades 3-12 (Screen Level = 111; Identification Level = 112)

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 4th Edition

- Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 110; Identification Level = 112)

Gates (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale)

- Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 65; Identification Level = 83)

Visual and Performing Arts

Visual Arts

- Gates (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale)
 - Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 57-77; Identification Level = 78+)
 - Ohio Department of Education Rubric (Screen 16-20; Identification Level 21-24)

Drama

- Gates (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale)
 - Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 57-77; Identification Level = 78+)
 - Ohio Department of Education Rubric (Screen 16-20; Identification Level 21-24)

Music

- Gates (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale)
 - Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 57-77; Identification Level = 78+)
 - Ohio Department of Education Rubric (Screen 14-17; Identification Level 18-21)

Dance

- Gates (Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale)
 - Grades K-12 (Screen Level = 57-77; Identification Level = 78+)
 - Ohio Department of Education Rubric (Screen 20-25; Identification Level 26-30)

District Contact Information

David Shea, Superintendent/Miami View Principal
(937) 462-8364
dshea@sels.us

PJ Bertemes, Southeastern Jr/Sr. high principal
(937) 462 8308
pbertemes@sels.us

Tim Bell, Director of Student Services
(937) 462-8364
tbell@sels.us