

# Areas of Identification

## ***Superior Cognitive Ability***

Superior cognitive ability is general intellectual ability that is consistently superior to same age peers. This is measured through an individual or group intelligence test. The required score varies based on the test. Youngstown City School District administers the *CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)* to all students in grades 2 and 4, and the required score is 128. Through alternative testing, students may be administered the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test*, which requires a score of 125 (K-6) or 126 (7-12). On these tests, 100 is considered an average score

## ***Specific Academic Ability***

Specific academic identification refers to a child's achievement in a specific subject area that is consistently superior to the achievement of same grade peers. The district uses the *NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress or Growth)* for an achievement test administered annually in Math grades K-11 and Reading grades 2-11, as well as optional, alternative tests throughout the year. Those tests include the *Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement* or the *Iowa Assessments*. Specific academic areas include reading, math, science, and social studies. A student must achieve the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher in any of these areas to be identified as gifted. A score of 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is considered average.

## ***Creative Thinking Ability***

Creative thinking ability includes consistent divergent thinking that results in unconventional responses to conventional tasks. As a screening measure, the district uses a score of 112 or higher on the *CogAT*, a state approved ability test administered to students in grades 2 and 4. Students who score at this level on individually administered ability tests will also be further assessed for giftedness in creative thinking ability. Students must also earn a qualifying score on a *Checklist of Creative Behaviors* from the *Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students or Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scales 2*.

## ***Visual and Performing Arts***

Children who demonstrate consistent outstanding aesthetic production in dance, drama, music, and/or visual arts can be identified as gifted in the arts. The first phase of identification occurs when teachers or parents recommend students as potentially gifted in one or more of the arts areas. Next, a behavioral checklist is completed, in addition to a performance assessment, which is scored using an ODE rubric.