

Cutoff Scores for the Identification of Gifted Students Using Assessment Instruments Approved for Above Grade Level Testing

The ACT Test, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the EXPLORE Test have been approved for use in the identification of gifted students in select grade levels. The ACT Test has been approved for use in the identification of gifted students currently enrolled in grades 6-8. The SAT has been approved for use in the identification of gifted students currently enrolled in grades 6-8. The EXPLORE test has been approved for use in the identification of gifted students currently enrolled in grades 3-6.

Minimum cutoff scores for identification are listed in the tables below. Note that the tests can be used for identifying students as gifted in multiple areas, including “Superior Cognitive” and certain specific academic areas. To be used for screening/identification purposes, a student’s scores must come from tests taken within the last 24 months.

Ohio Revised Code 3324.03 states:

(A)	A STUDENT SHALL BE IDENTIFIED AS EXHIBITING "SUPERIOR COGNITIVE ABILITY" IF THE STUDENT DID EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING WITHIN THE PRECEDING TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS:
	(1) SCORED TWO STANDARD DEVIATIONS ABOVE THE MEAN, MINUS THE STANDARD ERROR OF MEASUREMENT, ON AN APPROVED INDIVIDUAL STANDARDIZED INTELLIGENCE TEST ADMINISTERED BY A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST;
	(2) ACCOMPLISHED ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
	(a) SCORED AT LEAST TWO STANDARD DEVIATIONS ABOVE THE MEAN, MINUS THE STANDARD ERROR OF MEASUREMENT, ON AN APPROVED STANDARDIZED GROUP INTELLIGENCE TEST;
	(b) PERFORMED AT OR ABOVE THE NINETY-FIFTH PERCENTILE ON AN APPROVED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP STANDARDIZED BASIC OR COMPOSITE BATTERY OF A NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TEST;
	(c) 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 ABILITY FIELD IF WITHIN THE PRECEDING TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS THE STUDENT PERFORMS AT OR ABOVE THE NINETY-FIFTH PERCENTILE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ON AN APPROVED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TEST OF SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY IN THAT FIELD. A STUDENT MAY BE IDENTIFIED AS GIFTED IN MORE THAN ONE SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY FIELD.

The cutoff scores listed below are derived from data from the Midwest Talent Search, which allows large numbers of highly capable students to take tests designed for older students at an early age. The cutoff scores set are at or above the mean scores of students participating in the talent search. Because virtually all students participating in the Midwest Talent Search score at or above the 95th percentile on grade level standardized achievement tests, the cutoff scores listed set a standard at least equivalent to (and likely much higher than) the 95th percentile on other approved achievement tests given at the normal grade level

ACT Test			
Area of Gifted Identification	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading/Writing	16 (English Subscore)	18 (English Subscore)	20 (English Subscore)
Reading/Writing	17 (Reading Subscore)	18 (Reading Subscore)	21 (Reading Subscore)
Mathematics	15 (Math Subscore)	17 (Math Subscore)	19 (Math Subscore)
Science	17 (Science Subscore)	19 (Science Subscore)	20 (Science Subscore)
Superior Cognitive	16 (Composite Score)	18 (Composite Score)	20 (Composite Score)

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)			
Area of Gifted Identification	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading/Writing	410 (Verbal Subscore)	450 (Verbal Subscore)	500 (Verbal Subscore)
Mathematics	420 (Math Subscore)	450 (Math Subscore)	490 (Math Subscore)
Superior Cognitive	830 (Combined Score)	890 (Combined Score)	980 (Combined Score)

EXPLORE Test				
Area of Gifted Identification	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Reading/Writing	12 (English Subscore)	13 (English Subscore)	16 (English Subscore)	19 (English Subscore)
Reading/Writing	12 (Reading Subscore)	13 (Reading Subscore)	15 (Reading Subscore)	17 (Reading Subscore)
Mathematics	12 (Math Subscore)	14 (Math Subscore)	15 (Math Subscore)	17 (Math Subscore)
Science	15 (Science Subscore)	16 (Science Subscore)	17 (Science Subscore)	19 (Science Subscore)
Superior Cognitive	13 (Composite Score)	14 (Composite Score)	16 (Composite Score)	18 (Composite Score)