

# Parent Information: Firelands Local Schools Gifted Brochure

## Educational Programming for Identified Academically Talented Students

### IDENTIFICATION

The identification process is in compliance with the Ohio Department of Education guidelines, and uses only nationally-normed tests on the state approved list. Subjective criteria are not used.

**Referral:** Students can be referred for assessment by parents, teachers, or students in November and March (twice yearly). Referral forms are available in the office of each school building or at [www.esclc.org](http://www.esclc.org).

**Screening:** Students are screened in grades 2 and 4 using the CogAT test of Cognitive Abilities. The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is used for both reading and math gifted identification in grades 2 - 8.

**Assessment:** Following screening, small group or individual assessments are provided for potentially gifted students using the Woodcock Johnson IV, Stanford, or Naglieri 3.

**Assurances:** The district meets the ODE requirements for evaluation of students who are culturally diverse, economically disadvantaged, students with physical and sensory disabilities and students who have limited English proficiency. The district identifies using only state-approved tests which are administered by trained personnel.

**Outside Testing:** The district will accept outside testing for gifted students if the test is on the state-approved list.

**Transfer Students:** The district will review testing from previous schools to determine whether students qualify for services in Firelands.

**Acceleration:** The district has a state approved plan in place. The specific referral, screening and assessment process is detailed on the Firelands Schools or ESCLC websites.

**Appeal:** The district has an appeals process for decisions regarding screening and identification. The initial step in the process is to submit a written statement to the building principal explaining your reason for the appeal of identification.

**Withdrawal:** The district has procedures by which parents can withdraw their student from service if they feel the child is unsuccessful in the service or that the service is not meeting the needs of the child. Parents should contact their gifted supervisor or gifted intervention

specialist for an initial conference. If a student is not achieving or struggling with the expectation of the service, a parent-teacher conference will determine if this is the most appropriate placement. Withdrawal requires parent permission.

## **IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

The identification process is in compliance with the Ohio Department of Education guidelines. Firelands Schools' gifted identification plan identifies students in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creating thinking ability, and visual and/or performing arts ability. The identification process consists of three phases: screening, assessment, and identification.

## **FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOLS GIFTED SERVICES**

### **Firelands Elementary School:**

- **Cluster grouping:** Students with gifted identification in math, reading, and cognitive ability are placed together in classes with teachers who have been trained in supporting gifted students through differentiated instruction and enrichment opportunities.
- **Enrichment:** For students with gifted identification who are placed in general education settings, teachers will incorporate a variety of enrichment activities.
- **Resource Room:** In the upper elementary grade levels, gifted students may be placed in a gifted resource room setting with the gifted intervention specialist for math, reading, or both. Criteria for placement in the gifted resource room requires a score at the 95th percentile or higher in math or reading on assessments approved for gifted identification by the Ohio Department of Education.

**Firelands Middle School:** Students with gifted identification in cognitive ability, math or reading, will be served in honors, advanced, or general education courses taught by general education teachers who have received professional development in gifted education.

**Firelands High School:** Services include Honors classes, Advanced Placement classes, and College Credit Plus courses.

## **Gifted Identification Notice**

Specific criteria for identification are used for each area, based upon ODE Guidelines. Teachers, students, and parents may refer children for identification by completing and submitting a referral form available at [www.esclc.org](http://www.esclc.org).

**Written Education Plans (WEPs):** All students identified and served in a gifted program must be on a WEP in compliance with the Ohio Operating Standards. Service is reported to the Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children. WEPs address educational goals for

the student and are created collaboratively. A copy of the WEP is provided to parents for their records and they are reviewed on a yearly basis.

**Written Acceleration Plans:** All students who are subject or whole-grade accelerated will receive a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) which will be reviewed at the end of the acceleration period.



**Firelands High School, 440-965-4255**

Catherine Keener, Principal

Rick Skoczen, Assistant Principal

**Firelands Middle School, 440-986-7021**

Cara Hutchinson, Principal

**Firelands Elementary School, 440-965-5381**

Sun Choe, Principal

Laura Groboske, Assistant Principal

Teresa Dempsey, Gifted Intervention Specialist

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440-324-5777 x1145

[www.esclc.org](http://www.esclc.org)



The Education Service Center of Lorain County Gifted Consortium sponsors professional development for gifted educators as well as special events for students that align specific curriculum to state standards:

Countywide Gifted Programs/Services  
Classroom Attorney Workshops  
Mock Trial  
Academic Challenge  
Visual Arts Identification  
24 Game Semi-Finals/Finals

