



Gifted Services Expansion Plan

Feb. 27, 2020

Gifted Services Programming Plan For 2020-21 School Year

Columbus City Schools will expand its Gifted Services programming for the 2020-21 school year to provide services for more students in more schools. This expansion will not affect any of the current gifted programming or services.

Information about this expansion is included below. Gifted Services staff will also present this plan to the Board of Education at its regular business meeting on Tuesday, March 3, at 5:30 p.m.

Students Receiving Services

Currently, a total of 4,403 students across the District are identified as “gifted” in one or more of the following categories: superior cognitive ability, creative thinking, visual and performing arts ability, math, reading, science, and social studies. Of these 4,403 students, a total of 1,920 students are receiving services this school year (43.6%).

The expanded program will allow Columbus City Schools to provide services to at least an additional 860 students, which increases the percentage of students served to 63%.

Columbus Gifted Academy will continue to serve students in the same manner it currently does. Students who are currently receiving gifted services in other schools across the District will continue to receive the same services.

Staffing

Currently, the District has 11 Gifted Resource Specialist positions and one Testing Coordinator Position that support Gifted Services district-wide. The Academic Services Department is restructuring this staffing model in order to provide more direct services to students in the classroom.

Of these 12 current positions, two next year will be Testing Coordinators. The remaining 10 have been reposted as Gifted Intervention Specialist positions, which will work directly with students to provide gifted services and targeted enrichment.

Additionally, as part of the District’s 2016 operating levy request, a total of 23 Gifted Intervention Specialist positions have been created for the 2020-21 school year. This staffing model gives CCS an additional 33 teachers to work directly with students across the District.

Elementary School Gifted Services

- CCS is adding 16 new Gifted Services positions at the elementary school level, bringing its total to 35 staff members for the 2020-21 school year.
- The District will maintain existing gifted reading and math classes for students in grades 3-5.
- The District is **expanding** its services to provide literacy-based enrichment for K-2 students who are identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability, creative thinking, or reading.
- This expansion will include gifted services in **every** elementary school building in CCS.

Middle School Gifted Services

- CCS is adding 13 new Gifted Services positions at the middle school level, bringing its total to 19 staff members for the 2020-21 school year.
- The District will maintain the existing co-teaching gifted services provided to students in grades 6-8.
- The District is **expanding** its services to provide gifted core enrichment to students in grades 6-8 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking.
- This expansion will include gifted services in **every** middle school building in CCS.

High School Gifted Services

- CCS is adding four new Gifted Services positions at the high school level for the 2020-21 school year. The District does not currently have Gifted Intervention Specialists who are just dedicated to high schools.
- The District will maintain its gifted support of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) teachers.
- The District is **expanding** its services with the creation of a new Gifted Support online elective course for students in grades 9-10 identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability or creative thinking.
- Gifted Services will also support the new English Language Arts Honors courses, which are open to all ninth and 10th graders, and new AP courses that will be launched in certain high schools next year.
- This expansion will include gifted services in **every** high school building in CCS.

District-Wide Enrichment Activities

The Academic Services Department understands that there are a number of enrichment events that are valuable to the fabric and culture of our District. Gifted Services staff will have time built into their day in order to plan and coordinate these important events for our students.



Stakeholder Feedback

The expansion of the District's Gifted Services program does not come without stakeholder feedback. In the Fall of 2019, a survey was taken of gifted students, their families, and Gifted Services staff. One of the key issues that these stakeholders addressed in their survey feedback was the need to expand gifted services to more students at the K-2 grade levels and provide more options for high school students.

Future of Gifted Services in CCS

This expansion of the Gifted Services program is the first step in providing equitable opportunities to more students in more schools across the city. Columbus City Schools will continually evaluate its gifted programming -- not to mention all of its academic curriculum -- to find ways to reach more students and provide more opportunities as we work to move our schools forward.

