

Westlake Board of Education
Citizens Advisory Committee

Westlake's Gifted Programs

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Current State

- **Almost ¼ of Westlake school district's students, or 900 students, are gifted**
- **“Gifted” education is rather broadly defined**
 - Identification and assessment rather informal
 - Pullout program for grades 1 through 4
 - Differentiated education gradually diminishes from grades 5 through 12
- **No formal structure, comprehensive plan, expectations, or measurement**
- **State requires that systems track number of gifted students, but there is no mandate for service**
- **State funding is based on total enrollment, not gifted**

Current State

- **With enrollment around 4,000, Westlake qualifies for state funding of a “unit & a half” (equates to 1.5 FTE or \$40,000)**
- **Westlake has a relatively high percentage of gifted students, even compared to similar “excellent” districts**

	Westlake	Avon Lake	Bay Village	Brecks-Broadview	Solon
Total Enrollment	3,818	3,431	2,395	4,460	5,190
Gifted Enrollment	900	748	750	1,344	525
Gifted %	23.6%	21.8%	31.3%	30.1%	10.1%

Recommendations

- **Develop a comprehensive Gifted Educational Plan**
- **Consider expanding gifted identification beyond standard academic areas to visual/performing arts and creative thinking**
- **Establish expectations for gifted student service & transformation**
- **Establish oversight, possibly a district level position and/or an Advisory Committee**
- **Set this as a priority for:**
 - Comprehensive review in 2008-2009
 - Educational planning in 2009-2010
 - Implementation in 2010-2011

Sample Outline for a Gifted Educational Plan*

- Identification & Assessment Process
- Differentiated Education
- Elementary Program
- Secondary Program
- Extracurricular Options
- Staff Development
- Evaluation
- Advisory Committee
- Program Staff
- Budget

* Informed by example provided by the Okarche (OK) public School system.