

# Annual Notifications Regarding Special Education, Title 1, and Gifted Students 2015-2016

## Special Education

Special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of a handicapped child. Special Education Programs are provided for all children who have a handicapping disability. A disability in this instance means conditions such as: autism, blind and visually impaired, deaf and hearing impaired, deafblind, emotional disturbances, intellectual disability, multiple disability, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, twice exceptional, or traumatic brain injury. Every handicapped child in Ohio is entitled to services provided by the school district in which they reside, **including children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the state.** These services include: evaluation services for all children birth through twenty one years, diagnostic services for all children birth through age twenty one years of age, and educational programs for children three through twenty one years of age. If you know of a child who is handicapped or at risk and NOT receiving services, please call the Willoughby-Eastlake City School District's Pupil Services Office at (440-975-3800).

## Teacher Qualifications (Title I Buildings)

Under the federal education law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), parents of students in buildings that receive federal Title I money may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Information that may be requested includes whether or not the teacher has the state-required certification/licensing credential for his/her assignment and information relating to his/her college degrees and major areas of study. Edison, Grant, Longfellow, Jefferson, Royalview, Eastlake Middle, Willoughby Middle and Willowick Middle Schools receive Title I funds. To request information on the qualifications of the teacher(s) that work with your child, please contact Megan Gravens, Personnel Department (440-975-3758).

## Identification of Children Who Are Gifted

The Willoughby-Eastlake City School District follows eligibility criteria as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Department of Education to identify children who are gifted. The District identifies students in grades kindergarten through twelve that may be gifted in one or more of these areas: superior cognitive ability, specific academic achievement, creative thinking ability, and/or the visual or performing arts.

All students' standardized test scores and other school performance measures are reviewed to determine the need for gifted screening and identification. In addition, parents, students, and/or teachers may recommend students for screening for possible identification.

If you have questions about the identification of children as gifted in the Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools, please contact Alison Ciferno, Gifted Program Coordinator (440-283-2227) or e-mail: [alison.ciferno@weschools.org](mailto:alison.ciferno@weschools.org).