

Gifted & Talented Program Participant Identification & Complaint Processes

Within the first thirty days of a new academic school year, all ECO Charter School students in grades Kindergarten through eight complete grade level diagnostic assessments in Reading and Mathematics for the purpose of identifying trends across and within grade levels that indicate what students are ready to learn, who may be in need of additional academic support, and further, uncover whether additional resources are needed to meet the needs of students. These data also inform eligibility for school-sponsored programming including but not limited to Gifted and Talented services.

Students who score beyond the 95th percentile on the nationally-normed assessment would be screened by the School Psychologist who administers a brief cognitive assessment to determine the student's general intellectual capabilities, verbal reasoning abilities, and non-verbal reasoning abilities. Any student who obtains a standards score of 130 or above on any measure would be considered for the Gifted & Talented program. Teacher recommendation also is considered when determining program eligibility given teachers are exposed to students' creativity, divergent thinking skills and exceptional interests and talents.

When students are identified as eligible, students would engage services that could include strong mentoring, sustained enrichment, opportunities for off-site learning including but not limited to fieldwork and learning with field experts, and opportunities to work within and across peer networks. Service delivery would include combinations of academic competitions and service learning activities, pull-out, enrichment, acceleration, and learning with specialized peer groups, all in service of advancing learning for said population. Too, instruction would be both individualized and in small groups; instruction, per State law, would be provided by qualified instructors in a nurturing, positive, atmosphere.

Complaints

The Board directs that any complaint or disagreement regarding program eligibility or delivery be resolved by the following grievance procedure, which is designed to promote proper and equitable settlement of complaints at the lowest appropriate level and to facilitate an orderly process for resolution. For the purposes of this policy, "complaint" means an unresolved problem concerning Gifts and Talented program eligibility or program delivery.

Complaints will be resolved initially, wherever possible, by informal discussions between or among the interested parties.

Level One

Within three working days of the occurrence of the act or issue giving rise to the complaint, the entity must present his/her complaint in writing to the Principal. The written document will be a clear, concise statement of the complaint and will include the law, rule, policy, or regulation that the entity finds problematic; the factual circumstances on which the complaint is based; the person or persons involved; the decision, if any; and the remedy sought.

Any party to the complaint may request a personal conference with the Principal in order to resolve the complaint. The Principal will gather pertinent facts and work closely with all related parties to make an informed, impartial decision regarding the complaint.

Within seven working days the Principal shall present a decision to the entity in writing. If the Principal does not respond during the time permitted, the entity may appeal to the next level.

Level Two

An entity not satisfied with a decision at Level One may appeal that decision in writing to Lead Person within three working days after receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal will include a copy of the original complaint; the decision rendered, if any; the name of the entity and/or entity's representative, if any; and a clear, concise statement of the reasons for the appeal of the decision.

The Head of School shall collect relevant information and present a decision to the entity within seven working days. If no decision is rendered within that time limit, the grievant may appeal to the next level.

Level Three

An entity not satisfied with the Lead Person's decision may appeal that decision in writing to the Board within three working days after the receipt of the decision or the expiration of the time during which the decision must be rendered. The written appeal to the Board will include copies of the original grievance, the appeal of that grievance at Level Two, and the decisions, if any, rendered at Levels Two and Three.

The Board shall schedule a hearing to be held within forty-five calendar days of the presentation of the appeal. Within ten calendar days of the hearing, the Board shall submit its decision in writing together with reasons that support the decision to the entity. A copy of the decision shall be given to the Lead Person and to any other party to the complaint. The decision of the Board shall be final.