



MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION
60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

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To whom it may concern,

Decisions about entrance into the Gifted and Talented Programs reflect a demonstrated need for additional services. The New Jersey Department of Education (C.18A:35-35), " Defines gifted and talented students as a student who possesses or demonstrates a high level of ability in one or more content areas when compared to his chronological peers in the school district and who requires modifications of his educational program if he is to achieve in accordance with his capabilities." Our assessment process utilizes quantitative data (formal test scores) and/or qualitative data (i.e. parent and teacher observations of student's behaviors and characteristics). For the purpose of transparency, cognitive skills scores are sent home. Although we stand behind our identification process in which we use multiple measures that are specific to each program's goals, universally screen, utilize local scores for best practices, and keep the processing ongoing, parents do have an opportunity to present relevant information not available to the school. As per the Department of Education, *N.J.A.C. does not set requirements regarding the identification of gifted and talented students. The measures that are used for the identification process are determined by the local school district. Therefore, a school district is not obligated to accept the evaluation from another state, school district, or independent service.*

As per the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act you have the right to file a complaint if you believe the district has not complied with the provisions of the act. Written notification must be submitted to the Gifted and Talented Coordinator stating the request for appeal. If necessary, a meeting will be scheduled with the parent, gifted coordinator, and the curriculum supervisor to discuss the appeal. After reviewing all the data, the board shall issue a decision, in writing, to affirm, reject, or modify the district's action in the matter. If you have further questions please contact the gifted coordinator, Courtney Carrelha, at 201-762-2320 or ccarrelha@mahwah.k12.nj.us.

Thank you,

Courtney Carrelha
Gifted and Talented Supervisor

Kelly DeBello
Gifted and Talented Coordinator