

AACPS Gifted and Talented Identification Appeal Process

(Updated October 2016)

In May 2013, the AACPS Board of Education adopted a policy and regulation for the identification of Gifted and Talented Students. In September of 2016, this policy (IFE) was up-dated/expanded to include screening enhancements with two identification cycles (2nd and 5th grade).

Anne Arundel County recognizes the importance of providing all students with an educational program that includes opportunities to develop their abilities to meet their highest potential. Gifted and talented students possess unique talents, interests, and needs which must be addressed through educational decisions regarding their instructional curriculum, pacing and learning environment.

As outlined in the "Gifted and Talented Identification" Regulation:

- Measures shall be taken to encourage and facilitate the active and informed participation of parents or guardians in the educational decision-making process.
- An appeals process, through the Advanced Learning Office, of the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs, is available to parents/guardians who disagree with identification determinations.

Appeals Process:

1. Initial appeals of a GT Identification process decision (GT or Advanced designation) must be presented in writing to the Coordinator of Pre-K-12 Advanced Learning, Division of Advanced Studies and Programs. The Coordinator will then review the appeal description/merits with the school principal and chairperson of the ALPs School-based Teams.

- Review Actions May Include:
 - Re-assessment of screening criteria results and threshold scores; including re-reviewing of the Primary Talent Portfolio if appropriate (2nd grade only)
 - Inclusion of the student in Single-Subject Trail class as an advanced learner in the area of strength (reading, math, or both) for a trial period based on an assessment of additional data points/work samples

2. Ongoing appeals of a GT Identification process decision (GT or Advanced designation), must be presented in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Advanced Studies and Programs with a copy to the school principal and Coordinator of Pre-K-12 Advanced Learning, Division of Advanced Studies and Programs. The Assistant Superintendent will then review the appeal description/merits and actions taken with the initial appeal.

- Review Actions May Include:
 - Consideration of additional measures including alternate assessments if appropriate
 - Conditional student designations as "Advanced" or "Gifted," if appropriate (2nd grade only)

3. Following a decision by the Assistant Superintendent of Advanced Studies and Programs, the parent will be notified in writing of the appeal decision. The decisions of the Assistant Superintendent of Advanced Studies and Programs are final.