SPECIAL PROGRAMS GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

EHBB (LOCAL)

NOMINATION

Kindergarten students may be nominated at a designated time in the fall and placement will begin by March 1. Elementary students in grades 1 – 5 may be nominated for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons. Secondary students may be nominated for the gifted and talented program during designated referral periods, once in the fall and once in the spring.

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Criteria to identify gifted and talented students shall be established in the Board-approved program for the gifted and talented. The criteria shall be specific to the state definition of gifted and talented and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, such as the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

PARENTAL CONSENT

Written parental consent shall be obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. All student information collected during the screening and identification process shall be an educational record, subject to the protections set out in policies at FL.

SELECTION

A District selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select those students for whom gifted program placement is the most appropriate educational setting. The committee shall be composed of at least three professional educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students.

ASSESSMENTS

Data collected through both objective and subjective assessments shall be measured against the criteria approved by the Board to determine individual eligibility for the program. Assessment tools may include but not be limited to the following: achievement tests, intelligence tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, teacher nominations based on classroom observations, student interviews, and student work products, if available.

NOTIFICATION

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students is voluntary. The District shall obtain written permission of the parents before a student is placed in a gifted program.

REASSESSMENTS

The District shall not perform routine reassessments.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

When a student identified as gifted by a previous school district transfers into the District, the student's records shall be reviewed and new assessments administered if needed. by the selection

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committee to determine if placement in the District's program for gifted and talented students is appropriate.

The <u>District</u> committee shall make its determination within six weeks of the student's enrollment in the District and shall base its decision on the transferred records, new testing results, and other available information.

FURLOUGH

A furlough may be requested by a parent or (secondary) student due to personal reasons. The campus screening committee will approve the request if it is believed to be in the best interest of the child. Students who are unable to maintain satisfactory performance within the structure of the gifted and talented program may be placed on furlough by the campus screening committee (committee). The purpose of such a furlough is to provide the student an opportunity to attain performance goals established by the committee. A furlough also may be requested by the student, parent, or teacher.

A student may be furloughed for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Committee, usually for the remainder of the school year. At the end of the furlough, the student shall automatically reenter the gifted program with no additional testing required. A furlough shall be granted only once during a student's school career unless extreme circumstances cause the committee to deem it necessary to grant an additional furlough.

EXIT PROVISIONS

Student performance in the program shall be monitored. A student shall be removed from the program at any time the <u>District</u> selection committee determines it is in the student's best interest. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student <u>if possible</u> before honoring the request. [See "Probation/Exiting section of the EXPO Program Handbook]

APPEALS

Parents or students may appeal any final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the gifted program. Appeals shall be made to the selection committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with FNG(LOCAL) beginning at Level Two.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The gifted program shall be evaluated periodically, and evaluation information shall be shared with Board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community.

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COMMUNITY AWARENESS The District shall ensure that information about the District's gifted and talented program is available to parents and community members and that they have an opportunity to develop an understanding of and support for the program.

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