



TALENTED and GIFTED STUDENTS

PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

2023-24

Nestucca Valley School District #101 is committed to identifying and providing for the unique intellectual, social, emotional and career needs of Talented and Gifted (TAG) students.



Dear Guardian/Parent,

This handbook is intended to provide parents with an overview of Nestucca Valley School District programs and services for talented and gifted (TAG) students. This document is designed to answer many of your questions and help you understand the policies and procedures our district employs to meet the needs of our talented and gifted students.

Should you have any questions, you can reach out to me and I will try to answer them.

Nestucca Valley School District is committed to tailoring instruction to meet the individual needs of all our students and to provide the extra assistance needed to help our TAG students achieve their academic potential.

Please note that this information is available electronically on the Nestucca Valley School District website located at <http://www.nestucca.k12.or.us>

Sincerely,

Robin Richwine

TAG Coordinator

Overview

In accordance with OAR 581-022-1310 and OAR 581-022-1330, Nestucca Valley School District identifies and provides services for students with exceptional academic talents or intellectual gifts. This document will serve as a framework and communication tool for designing and documenting appropriate instruction. As the program grows and changes to meet the intent of these standards, this document will be reviewed.

The qualities of a strong program are consistent throughout all schools, K-12. The seven standards around which each school's program is built are as follows:

1. Information will be provided by the school to parents, in a timely manner, when a student is identified.
2. Level(s) and rate(s) of learning will be assessed.
3. Documentation of instruction for assessed level(s) of learning and accelerated rate(s) of learning will exist.
4. There will be opportunities for parent input and regular communication among parents, school staff and students.
5. There will be a shared responsibility among parents, school staff and students.
6. Appropriate service options for each student to work at assessed level(s) and accelerated rate(s) of learning will exist.

Identification Process

Nestucca Valley School District seeks to identify Talented and Gifted students (TAG) in two categories: **academically talented** and **intellectually gifted**. Students may be identified in either or both categories. Those identified as academically talented have shown specific ability in reading and/or math. Intellectually gifted students have demonstrated advanced capabilities in mental reasoning. Identification is based on multiple criteria that reveal a consistent pattern of excellence over time, or the potential for such a pattern. Evidence can include nationally standardized test scores, work samples, grades and anecdotal records.

Step 1: Initial Screening and Referral

Potential TAG students are identified through a referral process. Referrals are generated from individuals – teachers, parents, peers, community members, self – and/or screening from test scores. The referrals may be made to the TAG Coordinator for any student, K-12, at any time during the school year. If the referral comes from a teacher or a universal test, communication will be sent to the parents.

Screening for identification occurs through a variety of sources including, but not limited to the following:

- Kingore Observation Inventory (grades 3 - 8)
- KBIT-2
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (all students at grades 3 – 8 / 11)
- Standardized test scores above the 97%
- Observation of student work and behaviors by teachers
- Parent observations

Step 2: Data Review and Eligibility Determination

After a referral for identification occurs a team comprised of at least two teachers, an administrator and the TAG Coordinator meets to review the data currently available on the student. No single test, measure or score shall be the sole criteria for identification or failure to identify a student as academically talented or intellectually gifted.

The TAG review team will make one of 3 decisions.

Does not meet criteria:

At this step the team makes a decision regarding eligibility. No further action will be taken regarding this student unless the screening process brings the student forward again.

Need additional data:

Additional data may include:

1. Waiting for the next round of group administered standardized tests;
2. Requesting an individual assessment with a standardized test;
3. Requesting additional information or work samples from a teacher.

Identification (Reading, Math, and/or Intellectually Gifted).

Step 3: Formal Data Collection

Additional information may be needed to determine eligibility. Oregon law requires written parent consent before we proceed with testing not commonly administered to all students. Assessments may include a mental ability test or further achievement testing in reading and/or math. After sufficient data has been collected the TAG Review Team will review the information and determine eligibility.

Step 4: Selection and Communication

Parents and the student's teacher(s) will be notified of the identification decision in writing. Parents have the right to appeal the decision if they disagree. Questions regarding the identification process should be directed to the building TAG coordinator.

Instructional Services for TAG Students

Both academically talented and intellectually gifted TAG students in the NVSD School District are primarily served within the classroom by their teacher. Regardless of the category of identification, TAG students receive instruction at their accessed rate and level of learning in all content areas. This applies to all grade levels and for all subject areas or courses. The goal is to ensure that TAG students are stimulated and challenged throughout the school day by means of advanced content, flexible pacing, higher order thinking skills, research, projects and materials appropriate for the student's learning.

The classroom teacher at all levels develops instructional modifications that will appropriately meet the identified student's determined rate and level of learning, and creates a Personalized Education Plan (PEP).

Opportunities for parents to provide input about their child's program and services will occur through the fall parent-teacher conferences, a separate conference, phone conversations, or written communication including email. Teachers are expected to offer these opportunities and parents are encouraged to become involved in this process.

Elementary:

All TAG identified students at the elementary level receive modifications and adaptations as necessary in the regular classroom. Typical modifications in a classroom may include: individual, small group or whole group instruction, curriculum compacting, subject exploration, tiered assignments, or independent study.

Middle School:

There are a variety of services available to TAG students at Nestucca K-8. Talented and gifted students are served via an in-class model with students receiving appropriate modifications from their classroom teachers. In sixth through eighth grade, advanced classes are offered in math. In sixth and seventh grade, advanced classes are offered in language arts.

The classroom teachers assess the rate and level of learning for each TAG student and then make appropriate modifications in the classroom based on the assessment results. In some cases, the adaptation may be the advanced or above level course. They provide an opportunity for students to extend their learning by doing in-depth investigations and exploring areas of interest. Enrichment programs may be available if there is enough interest.

High School:

In all classes, TAG students receive adaptations and modifications that address their assessed rate and level of learning. In some cases, the adaptation may be the advanced or above-level course. TAG students at the high school level are offered independent study, concurrent enrollment in college, and advanced-level courses.

Instructional Options

There are a variety of techniques used to meet the rate and level of learning for TAG students. Instructional options that are given to a student are dependent on the learning needs of the student and the style of the teacher. Some potential instructional options are defined below:

- Individualized Instruction: One-on-one instruction in an assessed area of need.
- Acceleration: Moving through material at a rapid rate equal to the student's ability.
- Curriculum Compacting: Omitting or abbreviating material students know or can learn quickly. Once material has been compacted, a student can move on to new material or an area of interest.
- Independent Study: Teacher-guided project or coursework designed to allow a student to proceed independently and at his/her own rate.
- Computer-assisted instruction: A student progresses at his/her own rate in a computerized program designed to teach a specific skill or concept.
- Ability Groupings and/or Cross-Grade Grouping: Grouping students by ability with a class or grade or across grade levels for specific skill instruction.
- Dual credit courses are offered at the high school level, through which the student can earn college credit.
- Concurrent Enrollment: Enrollment with current and next school, including college.

Enrichment Options

Enrichment is an important part of the education of all students. Enrichment provides depth to an area of study and richness to the overall education experience. Enrichment options may include activities such as but not limited to the following:

Academic

- Battle of the Books
- Geography Bee
- National Honor Society
- NOSB
- Spelling Bee
- Summer Camps
- Summer trips to other countries (at the cost of the family, but some fundraising is available)

Mentorship/Internship

Connecting students with an adult possessing similar interests.

Special Projects

- Individualized project building on student interest and abilities.
- Honors Diploma

Interest Group

A group of students investigate a topic of interest and report findings

Talented and Gifted Records

TAG identification teams must keep a record of the decision made by the team, and the data used to make the decision. The permanent record file, TAG section, will contain copies of all forms related to parent permission, data used to make the eligibility decision, instructional options and modification, and assessment of levels and rates of learning. At all levels, the classroom teacher or building TAG coordinator maintains the file. At the beginning of the year, the teacher is expected to review its contents and use the information to help devise instructional modifications.

Termination of TAG Services

The guardian(s) may, at any time, request the withdrawal of their child from TAG programs and services.

Complaint Procedure

Any parent wishing to request reconsideration of the identification and/or placement of their child in the District program for talented and gifted students may use an appeal process. It is the District's desire and intent that satisfactory solutions can be reached during the informal process. The complaint must be related to one of the following: the identification process, the programs and services for talented and gifted students, or the rights of parents.

Roles

The mission of the talented and gifted program is to identify, encourage, and respond to the diverse needs of students identified as talented and gifted children. Collaboration between the parents and teachers enhances the possibilities for differentiated curriculum and instruction in the child's areas of interests and strengths. To this end we have outlined some basic roles.

Parent's role

- May initiate the TAG identification process on behalf of the child.
- May withdraw their child from the TAG program.
- Provides information about the child's development and interest.
- Gives input into the selection of appropriate programs and services for the child.
- Communicates with the child's teacher(s).
- Attends parent/teacher conferences.
- Supports school efforts at home.

Teacher's Role

- May initiate the TAG identification process on behalf of a potentially gifted student.
- Be aware of TAG students' characteristics and learning needs.
- Assesses rate and level of learning in different content areas.
- Develops instructional modification and communicates with parents, the student, and other teachers.
- Uses Curriculum and other modification strategies to meet rate and level of learning.

Building TAG Coordinators' Role

- May initiate the TAG identification process on behalf of a student
- Coordinates the identification effort within the building.
- Manages student TAG records.
- Communicates with parents as needed during the identification process.
- Acts as a liaison for administration, staff, parents and students.
- Keeps the principal and staff informed of school-based team decisions.
- Acts as an advocate for the TAG student.

Oregon Administrative Rules

Talented and Gifted

581-022-1310

Identification of Academically Talented and Intellectually Gifted Students

- 1) Each school district shall have local district policies and procedures for the identification of talented and gifted students as defined in ORS 343.395 who demonstrates outstanding ability or potential in one or more of the following areas:
- 2) General intellectual ability as commonly measured by measures of intelligence and aptitude.
 - a) Unusual academic ability in one or more academic areas.
- 3) The policies and procedures must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Districts shall make efforts to identify students from ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, and students who are culturally different or economically disadvantaged.
 - b) A team shall make the final decisions on the identification of students using the information collected under paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section. No single test, measure or score shall be the sole criterion. A record of the team's decision, and the data used by the team to make the decision, shall become part of the education record for each student considered.
 - c) Districts shall collect behavioral, learning and performance information and include the information in all procedures for the identification of students.
 - d) The following measures and criteria for identifying the intellectually gifted and the academically talented shall be used by the team:
 - i) Intellectually gifted students shall score at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally standardized test of mental ability; and
 - ii) Academically talented students shall score at or above the 97th percentile on a test of total reading or a test of total mathematics from a nationally standardized test battery, a nationally standardized test of reading or mathematics, or a test of total reading or total mathematics on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
 - e) Despite a student's failure to qualify under paragraphs (d) (A) and (B) of this subsection, districts, by local policies and procedures, shall identify students who demonstrate the potential to perform at the 97th percentile.
- 4) School districts may identify additional students who are talented and gifted as defined in ORS 343.395, as determined by local district policies and procedures, if the students demonstrate outstanding ability or potential in one or more of the following areas:
 - a) Creative ability in using original or nontraditional methods in thinking and producing.
 - b) Leadership ability in motivating the performance of others either in educational or noneducational settings.
 - c) Ability in the visual or performing arts, such as dance, music or art.

581-022-1320

Rights of Parents of Talented and Gifted Students

- 1) In carrying out the requirements of OAR 581-022-1310 and OAR 581-022-1330, the school district shall:
 - Inform parents at the time of the identification of the child and the programs and services available.
 - Provide an opportunity for the parents to provide input to and discuss with the district the programs and services to be received by their child.
- 2) The parents may, at any time, request the withdrawal of their child from programs and services provided under OAR 581-022-1320. The school district shall notify parents of identified students of this right.
- 3) Parents shall be informed of their right to file a complaint under OAR 581-022-1940.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 326.051 Stats. Implemented: ORS 343.391 - ORS 343.413 Hist.: EB 18-1996, f. & cert. ef. 11-1-96

581-022-1330

Programs and Services for Talented and Gifted Students

Each school district shall have a written plan for programs and services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize the contribution of talented and gifted children to self and society.

The written plan for programs and services for talented and gifted children shall be submitted to the Oregon Department of Education on a date and in a format provided in guidance documents provided by the Oregon Department of Education.

The written plan shall include, but is not limited to:

- A statement of school district policy on the education of talented and gifted children;
- An assessment of current special programs and services provided by the district for talented and gifted children;
- A statement of district goals for providing comprehensive special programs and services and over what span of time the goals will be achieved;
- A description of the nature of the special programs and services which will be provided to accomplish the goals; and
- A plan for evaluating progress on the district plan including each component program and service.
- The instruction provided to identify students shall be designed to accommodate their assessed levels of learning and accelerated rates of learning.
- Assessments for the development of an appropriate academic instructional program shall include the information used by the team for identification purposes and also may include one or more of the following:
 - An academic history which may include grades, portfolio assessment records or other progress records and achievement information that demonstrates the student's level of learning and rate of learning
 - Other evaluation methods such as formal tests or informal assessment methods designed by teachers to determine the student's instructional level and rate of learning related to specific academic programs;
 - Student interest, style, and learning preferences information from inventories or interviews; and
 - Other measures determined by the school district to be relevant to the appropriate academic instructional program for the student.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 326.051 Stats. Implemented: ORS 343.391 - 343.413 Hist.: EB 18-1996, f. & cert. ef. 11-1-96; ODE 6- 2009, f. & cert. ef. 6-29-09; ODE 20-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-

Nestucca Valley School District 101J

Code: IGBB
Adopted: 4/11/11 Revised/Readopted: 6/10/19
Orig. Code: IGBB

Talented and Gifted Program

The district is committed to an educational program that recognizes, identifies and serves the unique needs of talented and gifted students. Talented and gifted students are those who have been identified as academically talented and/or intellectually gifted.

The Board directs the superintendent, in consultation with the district and building TAG committees, to develop a written identification process for identifying academically talented and gifted students in grades K through 12.

A written plan shall be developed that identifies programs or services needed to address the assessed levels of learning and accelerated rates of learning of identified students shall be similarly developed.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 343.391 to -343.401](#) [ORS 343.407 to -343.413](#)

[OAR 581-022-2325](#) [OAR 581-022-2330](#)

[OAR 581-022-2500](#)

Nestucca Valley School District 101J

Code: IGBBA
Adopted: 4/11/11
Revised/Readopted: 6/10/19; 11/18/19
Orig. Code: IGBBA

Talented and Gifted Students - Identification**

In order to serve academically talented and intellectually gifted students in grades K through 12, the district directs the superintendent, after due consideration of the input of staff, parents and the community, to establish a written identification process. This process shall include as a minimum:

1. Use of research based best practices to identify talented and gifted students from under-represented populations such as ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, students who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse or economically disadvantaged.
2. Behavioral, learning and/or performance information;
3. A nationally standardized mental ability test for assistance in identifying intellectually gifted students;
4. A nationally standardized academic achievement test of reading or mathematics or a test of total English Language Arts/Literacy or total mathematics on the Smarter Balanced Assessment for assistance in identifying academically talented students.

Identified students shall score at or above the 97th percentile on one of these tests. Other students who demonstrate the potential to perform at the eligibility criteria, as well as additional students who are talented and gifted may be identified.

If a parent is dissatisfied with the identification process or placement of their student, they may appeal the decision through the accompanying administrative regulation, IGBBA-AR.

After exhausting the district's appeal procedure and receiving the district's final decision, a parent may appeal the decision to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023. The district shall provide a copy of the OARs upon request.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 343.395](#)

[ORS 343.407](#) [ORS 343.411](#)

[OAR 581-021-0030](#)

[OAR 581-022-2325](#)

[OAR 581-022-2330](#)

[OAR 581-022-2370](#)

[OAR 581-022-2500](#)

Cross Reference(s):

IGBBC - Talented and Gifted – Programs and Services

Talented and Gifted Students - Identification** – IGBBA1-1

Nestucca Valley School District 101J

Code: IGBBA-AR

Revised/Reviewed: 4/11/11; 6/10/19; 11/18/19

Orig. Code: IGBBA-AR

Appeal Procedure for Talented and Gifted Student Identification and Placement**

The Board has established an appeals process for parents to utilize if they are dissatisfied with the identification process and/or placement of their student in the district program for talented and gifted (TAG) students, and wish to request reconsideration. The district's desire and intent is to reach satisfactory solutions during the informal process:

Informal Process

1. The parent(s) will contact the district TAG coordinator to request reconsideration;
2. The TAG coordinator will confer or meet with the parent(s), and may include any additional appropriate persons (e.g. principal, counselor, teacher, etc.), within five school days of the request. Information pertinent to the selection or placement will be shared;
3. If an agreement cannot be reached, the parent(s) may initiate the formal process.

Formal Process

1. Parent(s) shall submit a written request for reconsideration of the identification/placement to the district TAG coordinator within five working days of the conference identified above;
2. The TAG coordinator shall acknowledge in writing the receipt of the request within five working days and shall forward copies of the request and acknowledgement to the district TAG coordinator;
3. The TAG coordinator, and other appropriate administrator shall review the student's file and earlier decisions within 10 working days of the original request presented in the previous step. Additional data may be gathered to support or change the earlier decision;
 - Parent(s) may be provided an opportunity to present additional evidence;
 - If deemed necessary, a formal hearing will be conducted by the district hearing's officer utilizing the appropriate procedures;
4. A decision will be made by the program supervisor within 20 working days after receipt of the written request for reconsideration from the parent(s). The parent(s) shall be notified of the decision in writing and the decision shall be forwarded to the superintendent.
5. The decision may be appealed to the Board; through procedures found in IGBBC-AR – Complaints Regarding the Talented and Gifted Program.

If the parent(s) are still dissatisfied, the parent(s) may file an appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-022-0023. The district shall provide a copy of the OARs upon request.

Code: IGBBC

Adopted: 4/11/11 Revised/Readopted: 6/10/19; 11/18/19 Orig. Code: IGBBC

Talented and Gifted – Programs and Services**

A district written plan will be developed for programs and services beyond those normally offered by the regular school program. All required written course statements shall identify the academic instructional programs and services to be provided which accommodate the assessed levels and accelerated rates of learning in identified talented and gifted students. The superintendent will remove any administrative barriers that may exist which restrict a student's access to appropriate services and will develop program and service options. These options may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Early Entrance
- Grade Skipping
- Ungraded/Multi-age Classes
- Cluster Grouping in Regular Classes
- Continuous Progress
- Cross Grade Grouping
- Compacted/Fast-Paced Curriculum
- Special Full or Part-time Classes
- Honor Classes
- Block Classes
- Independent Study
- Credit by Examination
- Concurrent Enrollment
- Mentorship/Internship
- Academic Competitions
- Magnet Programs/Schools

The Board has established an appeal process for a parent or guardian to utilize if they are dissatisfied with the programs and services recommended for their student that has been identified as talented and gifted, and wish to request reconsideration. The appeal process is identified in administrative regulation IGBBA- AR – Appeal Procedure for Talented and Gifted Student Identification and Placement.

The Board has established a complaints procedure to utilize if a person who resides in the district or a parent or guardian of a student attending school in the district has a complaint regarding the appropriateness of programs and services provided for a student identified as talented and gifted. This complaint procedure, IGBBC-AR – Complaints Regarding the Talented and Gifted Program, is available at the district's administrative office and on the home page of the district's website. The complainant may file an appeal to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023. The district shall provide a copy of these OARs upon request.

Legal Reference(s):

[OAR 581-022-2325](#) [OAR 581-022-2330](#)

[OAR 581-022-2370](#) [OAR 581-022-2500](#)

Cross Reference(s): IGBBA - Talented and Gifted Students - Identification

Code: IGBBC-AR
Revised/Reviewed: 4/11/11; 6/10/19; 11/18/19
Orig. Code: IGBBC -AR

Complaints Regarding the Talented and Gifted Program

The following procedure will be utilized when complaints arise regarding the district's talented and gifted programs and services (TAG):

All complaints regarding TAG will be reported to the superintendent; The complainant will be given the "Talented and Gifted Standards Complaint" form which must be filled out and submitted to the superintendent's office before further consideration can be given to the complaint:

- 1) Upon receipt of the TAG complaints, the superintendent shall arrange for a review committee consisting of the (talented and gifted coordinator/teacher, the TAG Program supervisor, a counselor and a school psychologist).
- 2) The review committee shall meet within five working days of when the superintendent received the written complaint and review all pertinent information. A recommendation from the review committee will be submitted to the superintendent within fifteen working days of receiving the original complaint.
 - a. The review committee may recommend that:
 - i. The programs or services are appropriate; or
 - ii. The programs or services are not appropriate.
 - b. The superintendent shall report immediately the recommendations of the review committee to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- 3) After consideration of the recommendations, if any, issued by the review committee the Board will issue a decision within 10 days of the Board meeting. The Board's decision will be final and will address each allegation in the complaint and contain reasons for the Board's decision. The Board's final decision will be issued in writing or electronic form.
- 4) If the complainant, who is a student, a parent or guardian of a student who attends school in the district or a person who resides in the district, remains dissatisfied, and has exhausted local procedures, may appeal¹ the district's final decision to the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 581-002-0001 – 581-002-0023. The district shall provide a copy of the appropriate OAR upon request.

Talented and Gifted Standards Complaint Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Daytime) _____ (Evenings) _____

Date of complaint: _____

What is the nature of your complaint?

What is the district currently doing? ____

In your opinion, in what way is this situation a violation of state standards

What do you feel the district should be doing?

Other pertinent comments

Signature _____

Date _____