Sec. 1. GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

If allowed by the Midland Academy Charter, the Superintendent shall develop a gifted and talented program that is approved by the Board and disseminated to parents. The program shall provide an array of learning opportunities for gifted/talented students in kindergarten through grade 12 and shall inform parents of the opportunities. Options shall include:

1. Instructional and organizational patterns that enable identified students to work together as a group, to work with other students, and to work independently;
2. A continuum of leaning experiences that leads to the development of advanced-level products and performances;
3. In-school and, when possible, out-of-school options relevant to the student's area of strength that are available during the entire school year; and
4. Opportunities to accelerate in areas of strength.

19 TAC 89.1, 89.3.

For purposes of this policy, "gifted and talented student" means a child or youth who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who:

1. Exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
2. Possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or
3. Excels in a specific academic field.

Education Code 29.121.

Sec. 2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The program developed by the Superintendent shall incorporate the following requirements:

a) *Nomination*

Students may be nominated or referred for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents, or other interested persons.

b) *Conferences*

Conferences shall be held with nominated students and their parent(s), if appropriate, to determine if the students are interested in the program.

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c) *Screening and Identification Process*

Assessment opportunities related to the screening and identification process for nominated and referred students shall be conducted at least once per school year.

d) *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 of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

e) *Identification*

The program shall establish criteria to identify gifted and talented students. The criteria shall conform to the state definition of gifted and talented, and shall ensure the fair assessment of students with special needs, including the culturally different, the economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities.

f) *Assessments*

Individual eligibility for the program shall be determined from data collected through both objective and subjective assessments measured against the criteria approved by the Board. Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, achievement tests, creativity tests, behavioral checklists completed by teachers and parents, teacher nominations, student/parent conferences, and available student work product.

g) *Selection*

Each Midland Academy Charter campus shall establish a selection committee to evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria. The selection committee shall be composed of at least three educators who have received training in the nature and needs of gifted students. The selection committee shall select those students for whom the gifted and talented program is the most appropriate educational setting.

h) *Selection Notification*

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted and talented program. Participation in any program or services provided for gifted students is voluntary. Midland Academy Charter shall obtain written permission from the parent(s) before placing a student in the program.

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i) ***Reassessment***

Midland Academy Charter shall reassess students to determine appropriate program placement when a student moves from the elementary level to the middle school level, and from the middle school level to high school.

j) ***Transfer Students***

When a student identified as gifted by a previous Texas public school enrolls in Midland Academy Charter, the student's records shall be reviewed by the appropriate selection committee to determine if placement in the Midland Academy Charter gifted and talented program is appropriate. If the transferring student's records are limited or not available, or if the identification criteria for placement in the program for gifted and talented students at the previous school are not comparable to Midland Academy Charter's, the standard procedures for identifying gifted and talented students shall be employed.

The selection committee shall make its determination within 30 days of the student's enrollment in Midland Academy Charter, and shall base its decision on the transferred records, observation reports of Midland Academy Charter teachers who instruct the student, and student and parent conferences.

k) ***Furloughs***

Any student who is unable to maintain satisfactory performance or whose educational needs are not being met within the gifted and talented program may be placed on furlough. Midland Academy Charter, a parent, or the student may initiate a furlough.

The selection committee shall document the specific reasons for granting the furlough and the time period for which the furlough shall last. At the end of a furlough, the student may reenter the program, be placed on another furlough, or be exited from the program.

l) ***Program Exit***

Student performance in the program shall be monitored. The selection committee may exit a student from the program at any time if the selection committee determines it is in the student's best interest and his or her educational needs. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, the selection committee shall meet with the parent and student before granting the request.

m) ***Appeals***

A parent or student may appeal a final decision of the selection committee regarding selection for or removal from the gifted and talented program. Appeals shall first be made to the selection

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committee. Any subsequent appeals shall be made in accordance with the policy on Parent and Student Complaints, beginning at Level One.

Sec. 3. GIFTED AND TALENTED TEACHERS

The Superintendent shall ensure that:

1. Prior to assignment in the program, teachers who provide instruction and services that are part of the program for gifted students have a minimum of 30 hours of staff development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students;
2. Teachers without the required training who provide instruction and services that are part of the gifted and talented program complete the 30-hour training requirement within one semester;
3. Teachers who provide instruction and services that are part of the program receive a minimum of six hours annually of professional development in gifted education; and
4. Administrators and counselors who have authority for program decisions have a minimum of six hours of professional development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students and program options.

19 TAC 89.2.

Sec. 4. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The gifted and talented program shall be evaluated annually, and evaluation information shall be shared with Board members, administrators, teachers, counselors, students in the gifted and talented program, and the community. Evaluation information shall also be used to modify and update the program.

Sec. 5. COMMUNITY AWARENESS

The Superintendent shall ensure that information about the Midland Academy Charter 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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