

AHCCS Gifted Program Dual Exceptional Procedure (2026-2027)

When a student is identified as both gifted and has a disability, Achievement House Cyber Charter School staff will follow these procedures:

- **Unified Evaluation Process:** For students referred for both gifted and disability needs, AHCCS will issue a single Prior Written Notice (PWN) and a consent form for the initial evaluation. This document will explain the reasons for evaluating both areas and detail the proposed assessments.
- **Evaluation Report (ER):** AHCCS will prepare an Evaluation Report (ER) that includes the requirements of both a Gifted Written Report (GWR) under Chapter 16 and an ER under Chapter 14. AHCCS will complete the report within 60 calendar days of receiving the signed consent form.
- **IEP Development:** If the student qualifies as dually exceptional, a gifted educator will be part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team. An IEP will be developed within 30 calendar days of the evaluation team's final report, covering requirements from both Chapter 14 and Chapter 16.
- **Re-evaluation Cycles:** AHCCS will follow Chapter 14's re-evaluation cycle, incorporating gifted-specific updates within these reports. Full IQ and Achievement testing will not be required for gifted re-evaluations; instead, the focus will remain on record review, unless the team determines updated testing would benefit the student. AHCCS will update the Present Levels of Educational Performance (PLEP), identify academic strengths, review progress on past goals, and recommend any needed changes to the Gifted IEP (GIEP).

Key Procedural Concepts of the Gifted Program Dual Exceptional Procedure:

- **Notices and Placement Recommendations:** AHCCS will issue a single Notice of Recommended Educational Placement/Prior Written Notice (NOREP/PWN) that includes gifted support alongside all necessary components of a Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA).
- **Unique Circumstances:**
 - If a student already has special education needs and is being referred for gifted evaluation, AHCCS will follow the re-evaluation process under Chapter 14.
 - For a student identified as gifted who is now being referred for special education evaluation, AHCCS will issue a Prior Written Notice (PWN) and consent form for an initial evaluation and include current gifted information in the Evaluation Report (ER) without repeating gifted eligibility testing.
- **Priority of Special Education Services (IDEA/Chapter 14):**
 - For students who qualify as both gifted and in need of special education, AHCCS will prioritize the procedures outlined in Chapter 14 (the special education chapter) over those in Chapter 16. This ensures that the students' disability-

related needs are the focus, while also addressing gifted education needs within the same framework.

- **Single IEP Requirement:**
 - AHCCS will not require separate plans for special education and gifted education. Instead, AHCCS will develop a single IEP and implement it to cover both sets of needs, avoiding duplication in screening, evaluation, and procedural safeguards.
- **Full Integration of Gifted Needs:**
 - AHCCS will prioritize Chapter 14 although the needs identified under the gifted designation will also be fully integrated into the special education IEP. This provision ensures that AHCCS will address the gifted aspects in conjunction with the student's disability, rather than in a separate program or process.
- **Procedural Simplification:**
 - AHCCS will not conduct separate screenings, evaluations, or procedural safeguard processes to address a student's gifted and special education needs. AHCCS will streamline services, making it more straightforward for schools to meet the students' combined needs without redundant evaluations or compliance steps required of the student and/or guardians.

Works Cited

1. National Association for Gifted Children (n.d.). "Identifying Gifted Children from Diverse Populations." National Association for Gifted Children, <https://www.nagc.org>.
2. Pennsylvania Code. (n.d.). *Chapter 16. Special education for gifted students*. Pennsylvania Code & Bulletin. <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/022/chapter16/s16.1.html&d=>