

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) supports a world where giftedness and high potential are fully recognized, universally valued, and actively nurtured to support children from all backgrounds in reaching for their personal best and contributing to their communities.

Thank you for the release of the [*Questions and Answers on U.S. Supreme Court Case Decision *Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District Re-1**](#) and for upholding the higher standard set by the Supreme Court.

All students with disabilities, including gifted students with disabilities, “should have the chance to meet challenging objectives.”

We are supportive of your language that an IEP team should consider “...whether the child is on track to achieve or exceed grade-level proficiency...” and that ensuring every child has the chance to meet challenging objectives “...inherently includes a meaningful opportunity for the child to meet challenging objectives.”

Many gifted students with disabilities, sometimes referred to as twice-exceptional, have been needlessly delayed in receiving services or denied a chance to meet challenging objectives due to the fact that their chronological age or enrolled grade-level proficiency standards do not match their academic level.

NAGC respectfully encourages the U.S. Department of Education to further clarify that IEP Teams should enable twice-exceptional children to be involved in and make progress towards above grade-level challenging objectives when appropriate. All children with disabilities deserve the opportunity to reach for their personal best.

Thank you again for upholding the higher standard set by the Supreme Court and for considering our request to clarify the requirement that “every child should have a chance to meet challenging objectives.”

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-785-4268 or mrilas@nagc.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



M. René Islas
Executive Director



Sally Krisel
Board President