

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
February 26, 2026
HAND CARRY**

FOR ACTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4929

**SUBJECT AFFIRMING THE DISTRICT’S IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE STRENGTHENING GIFTED AND TALENTED
EDUCATION ACT**

WHEREAS, the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:35–34 et seq. (“SGTEA”), and N.J.A.C. 6A:8–3.1 require boards of education to establish an ongoing K–12 process to identify students who are gifted and talented using multiple measures, and to provide appropriate instructional adaptations; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange–Maplewood Board of Education (“Board”) has adopted and maintains Board Policy 2464 – Gifted and Talented Students, most recently revised August 24, 2023, to implement the requirements of SGTEA; and

WHEREAS, the Board received a written complaint alleging noncompliance with SGTEA and Board Policy 2464 with respect to the identification and instructional services provided to a specific student; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Board Policy 2464, the Board reviewed the written complaint, supporting attachments, the student’s Gifted Action Plan, and the written response, and documentation submitted by the administration; and

WHEREAS, the Board discussed this matter with the Superintendent and appropriate administrators in executive session, consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act, OPRA, FERPA, and the need to protect confidential student educational records and personnel-related information; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the District maintains a lawful and compliant process for identifying gifted and talented students using multiple measures, and provides a continuum of services and instructional adaptations aligned with SGTEA and N.J.A.C. 6A:8–3.1; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that the student at issue was identified through multiple measures and provided with a written Gifted Action Plan designed to address the student's instructional needs and to be reviewed and adjusted over time; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that determinations regarding curriculum, instructional strategies, differentiation, and implementation of gifted services are matters of professional educational judgment entrusted to certified staff and administration; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds no evidence that the District's actions violate SGTEA, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1, or Board Policy 2464, and determines that the District's implementation of gifted and talented services for the specific student were legally compliant and educationally appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby **AFFIRMS** the District's implementation of the Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act and Board Policy 2464; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board **AFFIRMS** the actions taken by the administration with respect to the identification of gifted and talented students, the development and implementation of Gifted Action Plans, and the provision of instructional adaptations consistent with professional educational judgment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board **DIRECTS** the administration to continue to monitor, review, and document the implementation of the Gifted Action Plan in accordance with district procedures and to maintain appropriate communication with the Complainants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent or designee is authorized to issue the Board's written decision to the complainants in accordance with Board Policy 2464, including notice of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9.