

BYLAWS OF
THE GIFTED IN FREMONT

ARTICLE I. - NAME AND PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. This organization (hereinafter, "Association") shall be known as The Gifted in Fremont.
- Section 2. This Association shall be governed by these Bylaws which may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions herein. Bylaws shall be reviewed annually prior to submission to CAG with annual membership dues.
- Section 3. The purpose of this nonprofit Association shall be (1) to promote the interests of gifted and talented students in the Fremont Unified School District ("FUSD") by encouraging the fullest development of their potential at home and at school; (2) to provide a source of information and encouragement to parents and educators of gifted and talented children in Fremont, California, public schools; and (3) to improve the education of gifted and talented individuals, as these persons are defined by current legislation.
- Section 4. The Association shall sponsor and foster activities significant to the education of gifted individuals, such as the dissemination of information, and conduct research and other scholarly investigations.
- Section 5. The Association shall support and encourage specialized professional individuals in fields related to the education of the gifted.
- Section 6. The Association shall support activities which encourage advocacy and parent awareness on behalf of gifted education.
- Section 7. The Association shall strive to accomplish its stated purposes through such activities as:
- sponsoring conferences, workshops, and meetings;
 - promoting improved communication between district, school, and parent;
 - supporting beneficial legislation, frameworks, and policies for gifted and talented students in the public schools;
 - assisting parent groups to improve gifted and talented programs in their schools;
 - assisting parent groups to sponsor special events or programs in their schools for gifted and talented children; and
 - sponsoring fundraisers to support the preceding activities.

ARTICLE II. - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Membership in the Association shall be open to all individuals, regardless of their race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, family status, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or area of academic specialization, who are interested in promoting the public education of children who are gifted or talented.
- Section 2. Members of the Association shall be those individuals who maintain their status by registering and by paying dues if and as required.
- Section 3. Members of the Association shall be eligible to vote in elections and official actions of the Association, shall be eligible for election to office, shall be eligible to serve on committees, and shall receive newsletters and announcements of meetings and special events.

- Section 4. Honorary membership may be given by the Executive Committee to any person who has contributed in an outstanding manner to projects of the Association or to the education or welfare of talented and gifted children.

ARTICLE III. - DUES AND INCOME

- Section 1. Annual dues, if any, for the Association shall be set by the Executive Committee based on needs established in the budget. Dues may be revised annually or as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Annual membership will be in effect for twelve months from June 1 to May 30 of each succeeding year.
- Section 2. Membership dues shall be waived for one officially appointed parent representative from each school in the Fremont Unified School District.
- Section 3. Donations or grants may be received with the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. - OFFICERS

- Section 1. The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, President Elect, up to two Vice-Presidents, up to two Recording Secretaries, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, and Webmaster.
- Section 2. The term of office runs for the operational year, from June 1 through May 30 of the succeeding year.
- Section 3. The President shall be a member of the Association. The President shall preside at the Association's general meetings, serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee, make all authorized appointments including members of the standing committees, represent the Association in any activities related to the Association's stated purposes and goals, and serve in all other manners authorized by the Bylaws. The President may delegate any duties and tasks of any TGIF officer unable to perform his/her duties to any TGIF member. The President may delegate any Executive Board member to represent the association if the President or President-Elect are unable to serve. The President is automatically promoted from the President Elect position of the previous year.
- Section 4. The President Elect shall be a member of the Association. The President Elect shall serve a two year term and be automatically promoted to the President position in his/her second year of service. The President Elect shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to function in any aspect of office, act in the place and with the authority of the President. In case the office of the President is vacated for any reason, the President Elect shall complete the President's term of office as President.
- Section 5. The Vice-President shall be a member of the Association. The Vice President may serve as chairperson of the Program Committee.
- Section 6. The Recording Secretary shall be a position shared equally by co-Secretaries. Each co-Secretary shall be a member of the Association. The co-Secretaries shall record minutes of all general and Executive Committee meetings and maintain accurate Association records, including bylaws, agenda, treasurer report, auditor report, flyers, minutes, and copy of annual members mailing list. With the approval of the President, the co-Secretaries may divide their duties as they agree between them.
- Section 7. The Membership Secretary shall be a member of the Association. The Membership Secretary shall ensure that the membership database, mailing list, and electronic mail group list is maintained.

- Section 8. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Association. The Treasurer shall receive and maintain funds of the Association, maintain an accurate dues record for each member, pay all bills and obligations approved for payment by the Executive Committee, keep a true account of all transactions of the Association, prepare an annual budget, present financial statements at each Executive Committee and general meeting and prepare an annual financial report to be made available to the general membership. All accounts and records shall be subject to an annual audit.
- Section 9. The Auditor shall be a member of the Association. The Auditor shall audit the accounts and records of the Association annually at the close of the operational year and shall make the report available to the Association, Executive Committee, and membership (and, when appropriate, to the California Association for the Gifted). Accounts shall be audited upon resignation of the Treasurer or any other time deemed necessary.
- Section 10. The Webmaster shall be a member of the Association. The Webmaster shall maintain the association website and evaluate the web hosting service as needed.
- Section 11. An officer may be removed from office by the two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee as ratified by a majority of the members in good standing at a general meeting, or alternatively, by a two-thirds majority of the members in good standing at a general meeting.

ARTICLE V. - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall act as chairperson, the President-Elect, one Vice-President, and one Secretary. The Executive Committee shall also include the following non-voting members: the FUSD GATE Program Specialist and the immediate past President.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be the policy determining body for the Association in intervals between general meetings and shall operate within the provisions set forth in these Bylaws.
- Section 3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Association subject to actions taken officially at business meetings.
- Section 4. The Executive Committee of this Association is, by agreement with the Fremont Unified School District, official advisor to the school district on behalf of parents of gifted and talented children and concerning the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program.
- Section 5. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held as needed, at least annually, on such dates as the President may determine. Special meetings may be called by written notice that require three members of the Executive Committee present. Two thirds of the voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Section 6. No monies shall be disbursed without approval of board members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VI. – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees will be established and their functions will be assigned by the President in cooperation with the Executive Committee.

The Standing Committees for the Association may be Program, Nominations, School Representatives, and Legislation.

- a. The Program Committee may consist of a Vice-President, who shall act as chairperson, and members-at large who may be appointed by the President after consultation with the chairperson. In relation to the agenda of the Association, the Program Committee may identify and make arrangements for speakers on topics related to the business of this Association and plan events sponsored by the Association for the membership and the general public. The Vice President may assign oversight of said events to members of the Program Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- b. The Nominations Committee may consist of the immediate past president serving as chairperson and not less than two non-officers of the Association. If the past president declines the appointment, the President shall appoint a third impartial member to the committee and name a chairperson. Individual members of the committee must come from different schools. The Nominations Committee shall seek and confirm candidates for office and assist with elections as set forth in Article VII.
- c. The School Representatives Committee may consist of those members who are the officially appointed representatives of each school, selected from time to time in manner and number as each school may choose. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson. The School Representatives Committee shall serve as liaison with individual schools and shall work to improve communications with parents, teachers, and administrators and to organize the efforts of GATE parents and supporters within each school.
- d. The Legislation Committee may consist of the chairperson and such other persons as the chairperson and President regard as appropriate. The Legislation Committee shall work in cooperation with the California Association for the Gifted in studying and recommending legislation relating to the gifted and talented and reporting to the general membership.
- e. Membership on the standing committees of the Association shall be for the operational year, June 1 through May 30. Continuing appointments may be made, but the continuation of an entire committee for a second year shall be subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Other committees may be appointed by the President upon the approval of the Executive Committee, or as a result of action officially taken at a meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The President Elect and the Vice-President(s) shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominations Committee, on which s/he does not otherwise have a right to vote.

Section 4. There shall be as broad a district representation of membership as possible on each of the Association's committees.

ARTICLE VII. - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Section 1. Regular election of officers shall be held annually in the last quarter of the operational year (March through May) on a date set by the Executive Board. Elections shall be open to all members in good standing.
- Section 2. It is the responsibility of the Nominations Committee to secure a slate of nominees for election. The Committee shall canvass the membership to obtain advice as to the names of possible nominees, with the intent of obtaining as broad a district representation on the slate as possible. The Committee shall ascertain the willingness and availability of each potential nominee before placing names on the ballot. Members may nominate themselves for office and their names will be placed on the ballot. Nominations shall also be accepted from the floor at the election meeting, provided the nominee has expressed a willingness to serve.
- Section 3. The Secretary shall notify the general membership of the slate of officers and the upcoming election date at least two weeks in advance.
- Section 4. If there are two nominees for an office, a simple majority of the votes cast shall constitute election; in the case of more than two nominees for an office, the person receiving a plurality shall be elected.
- Section 5. Should an office other than that of President be vacated in the middle of a term, the position shall be filled by a midyear election or, if so determined by the Executive Committee, by an appointment of the President.

ARTICLE VIII. – MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regular meetings of this Association shall be held as determined by the Executive Committee.
- Section 2. There shall be at least three general membership meetings annually. Business may be conducted at any general meeting.
- Section 3. There shall be at least three GATE advisory meetings annually. Business may be conducted at any GATE advisory meeting.
- Section 4. Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the President, or by two-thirds of the Executive Committee, or by one-fourth of the membership, provided five days notice has been given to all members.

ARTICLE IX. - AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

- Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members in good standing at a general meeting provided that the amendment has been submitted to the Executive Board of the Association; and further provided that prior notice is given to the membership that Bylaws revisions will be considered at the next general meeting, and members have an opportunity to review the proposed changes in advance of any vote. Amended bylaws may be voted and approved by a majority vote of members present at a general meeting at which the bylaws are presented. The Executive Committee shall distribute a notification of the location of the Bylaws for members in good standing.

ARTICLE X. - PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Section 1. This Association affirms in its organizational affairs the policy of non-discrimination and non-harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, family status, age, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. The Association shall not discriminate in its membership, programming, services, or other activities.

ARTICLE XI. – TERMINATION

Section 1. In the event the Association is dissolved, the Executive Committee then in office shall continue until all affairs of the Association have been officially terminated.

Section 2. Any assets of the Association remaining after the payment of debts and obligations shall be donated to the California Association for the Gifted in furtherance of the purposes of this Association.

Adopted May 1988

Revised November 1997

Revised February 1999

Revised October 22, 2007

Revised October 24, 2007