

APPLYING TO THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL

The Ethel Walker School welcomes applications from girls who seek a vibrant and challenging education in a friendly and dynamic community. Walker's girls bring a variety of talents, interests, outlooks and backgrounds to our community of learners and strive to live according to the values of honor and excellence.

In reviewing applications, the Admission Committee carefully reviews each student's academic record along with standardized test scores, letters of recommendation and parent statements. The committee works to assess each student's academic promise, character and citizenship, adaptability and talents, and potential both in and outside of the classroom. It is extremely important that each part of the application be completed thoroughly and returned to the Admission Office by the stated deadlines.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Regular Decision: February 1

The applicant must file all application materials by February 1 in order to have a decision mailed on March 10. Admitted students have until April 10 to respond to our offer of admission.

Rolling Admission

Students whose admission files become complete after February 1 will be reviewed on a rolling basis, if space is available.

THE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Part One: General Information

Part One begins the applicant's official file within the Admission Office. The student or parent may complete this form.

Application Fee

All applicants are required to pay an application fee upon submitting Part One (\$60 for domestic students and \$125 for international students).

Part Two: Student Information and Essay

Part Two provides a personal look at each applicant. This form should be completed in the student's own handwriting, although the required essay may be typed. Students are encouraged to submit a graded writing sample along with their application.

Parent / Guardian Confidential Statement

This form should be completed and signed by either a parent or the primary guardian of the applicant.

School Recommendation

The applicant's principal or guidance counselor should complete this form and return it with an official copy of the student's transcript.

Transcript Release Form

The parent/guardian should sign this form and submit to the applicant's current school requesting an official copy of the transcript be sent directly to The Ethel Walker School. (This transcript may be faxed, emailed as a pdf or mailed but must come directly to Walker's from the applicant's current school.)

Teacher Recommendations

Two recommendations are required: one from the current English teacher and one from the current Mathematics teacher. In cases where the same teacher has taught the student in both English and Math, we still ask that both forms be completed, so that we can assess the student's strengths in each area.

Additional letters of recommendation from individuals who know the candidate personally (coach, employer, religious leader, etc.) may also be submitted.

Standardized Testing

All candidates are required to take the SSAT (Secondary School Admission Test) when applying for admission. If a student has taken the PSAT or SAT/ACT, these scores may be submitted instead of the SSAT. In addition to the SSAT, international students must also submit the results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or SLEP (Secondary Level English Proficiency) Test.

Interview

All candidates are required to have an interview with an admissions counselor. This can be scheduled during a campus visit, or conducted via telephone or Skype.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All students who wish to apply for financial assistance must have a completed application for admission on file in the Admission Office and have submitted the required financial aid documents to School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS). February 1 is the priority deadline. Tuition assistance is determined by the Financial Aid Committee on the basis of a family's demonstrated financial need. Each year, the number of requests for assistance exceeds our financial aid allocation. Families whose files become complete after the established deadline will be considered only as funds remain available.

Financial aid forms may be obtained at www.sss.nais.org. All forms should be submitted online to SSS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How did you learn about The Ethel Walker School? (Please check all that apply.)

- Alumna Coach Current Parent Current Student
 Educational Consultant Guidance Counselor Riding Instructor Search Engine
 Teacher School Website Other _____

Are you currently working with an educational consultant? Yes No

If yes, please provide contact information:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

PROVINCE

ZIP/POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

Please list any friends or relatives who have attended The Ethel Walker School and their relationship to you:

FEES

Person(s) responsible for all fees: _____

If other than parent, please provide:

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

COUNTRY

Do you intend to apply for financial assistance from The Ethel Walker School? Yes No

February 1 is the priority deadline for submitting the financial aid application online at www.sss.nais.org.

Financial aid applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a funding-available basis.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

The Ethel Walker School is proud of its tradition of diversity. If you wish to identify yourself as a member of one of the groups listed below, please check all that apply:

- African American/Black Asian American Caucasian/White
 International Hispanic/Latina Biracial (please specify) _____
 Native American Puerto Rican Other (please specify) _____

APPLICATION FEE

Please return this form as soon as possible along with the non-refundable application fee, made payable to The Ethel Walker School. (\$60 for domestic students, \$125 for international students)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

The Ethel Walker School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, disabilities, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other School-administered programs.



230 Bushy Hill Road
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070
p 860 408 4200 f 860 408 4201
www.ethelwalker.org

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APPLICATION

Part Two: Student Information



INSTRUCTIONS: Please type or print and return to The Ethel Walker School Admission Office as soon as possible.

Current Grade _____ Candidate for Grade _____ in 20_____ (year)

Day (Gr. 6-12) Boarding (Gr. 9-12)

NAME (first)	(middle)	(last)	PREFERRED NAME/NICKNAME	
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP
For international applicants only: PROVINCE		COUNTRY		

ACADEMICS

What three words would your teachers use to describe you? _____

Why would they choose these words? _____

What do you think you will like most about Walker's? _____

How many books do you usually read each year (outside of required reading for school)? _____

What is your favorite type of literature? _____

While not required, all applicants are encouraged to submit a graded paper or essay written for a class this year. This paper may be a copy of the original, but it should contain the grade you received and any teacher comments that were offered.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Walker's is an active community of learners, both in and out of the classroom. Of all the activities that you have participated in, which one was/is your favorite? Why? What did you learn from this experience?

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In the space provided below, list the extra-curricular activities that you have been involved in, such as athletics, music, religious organizations, community service, etc. Other activities and hobbies may be included in this section as well. If you need more space, please use a separate page.

Extra-Curricular Activity	Number of Years	Specific roles, positions, honors, etc.

ACTIVITIES / ATHLETICS

Check all that apply:

- Basketball
 Field Hockey
 Golf
 Lacrosse
 Personal Fitness
 Ski Team
 Soccer
 Softball
 Squash
 Tennis
 Volleyball
 Other _____

ACTIVITIES / THE ARTS

- Dance
 Music: Instrumental _____ (please indicate instrument)
 Music: Vocal
 Theatre
 Visual Arts

Students who have been involved in equestrian activities should complete the questions below.

EQUESTRIAN

Walker's Equestrian Program is a nationally-recognized program with riders at all skill levels.

How long have you been riding? _____ Do you ride competitively? Yes No

If yes, please check the discipline you are entering: Hunter/Jumper Eventing Dressage Other

Please provide us with the name of your current trainer: _____ Years with trainer: _____

Do you plan to ride at Walker's? Yes No

Have you talked with anyone on our riding staff? Yes No If so, who? _____

Would you be interested in boarding a horse? Yes No

ESSAY

Choose one of the following topics and, on a separate page, write an essay of approximately 300 words (one to two pages). Please be sure to put your name on the top of the page. The essay may be typed.

1. Describe an event, challenge, dream or goal that has been significant in your life to date. Why is/was it important and what have you learned about yourself?
2. If you could do one thing to change your school or community, what would it be and why?
3. If you could be any character in a book, which character would it be and why would you choose that one?



OPTIONAL PHOTO

With my signature, I acknowledge that this application is my own work and that I did not receive any assistance in answering these questions.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PLEASE PRINT: NAME (first)

(middle)

(last)



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APPLICATION

Parent Confidential Statement



STUDENT NAME (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CURRENT GRADE _____ CANDIDATE FOR GRADE _____ IN 20_____ (year)

At The Ethel Walker School, we believe the needs of individual students are best served when parents, students and the School work together in a collaborative fashion. Please consider the completion of this form the first step in that process. To assist us, please complete the following questions or statements. If you prefer, you may use a separate or additional sheet(s) of paper. Thank you in advance for taking the time to tell us more about your daughter.

1. Please share with us your daughter's special strengths, talents and extracurricular interests and/or any accomplishments that she may have achieved.

2. How would you describe your daughter's development of a "work ethic" and her current study/homework habits?

3. Please describe your daughter's relationships with her peers and with her family.

4. How do you feel your daughter will contribute to the Walker's community?

(continued on reverse)

5. Please describe what you have observed as your daughter's reaction to challenges. How does she respond to advice? Constructive criticism? Praise?

6. What do you expect from the Walker's community?

7. Are there any circumstances that have affected or may affect your daughter's academic performance, participation in athletics, or attendance in school? If so, please describe those circumstances. Examples of such circumstances include frequent family moves or change of schools, skipping or repeating a grade, the loss of a family member, disciplinary action, illness, or learning-style differences or challenges. Though sensitive, this information deserves your candor so that we might better serve your daughter.

In completing this application for admission, it is my honest belief that all pertinent information necessary to assist in the successful development of my daughter at The Ethel Walker School has been included in or with this application.

PARENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

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APPLICATION

English Recommendation



STUDENT NAME (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CURRENT GRADE _____ CANDIDATE FOR GRADE _____ IN 20 _____ (year)

TO THE TEACHER: *The above-named student has applied for admission to The Ethel Walker School, a college preparatory school for girls. The Admissions Committee greatly appreciates as complete and accurate an appraisal of the applicant as your experience, knowledge and understanding of her abilities allows. Be assured that the confidential information you provide will be used to evaluate the candidate for admission and, if admitted, will only be used to assist in placement of the candidate. This form will not become part of the student's permanent record should she enroll at the School. You may attach a common recommendation to this form if that is more convenient.*

Please feel free to contact the Admissions Office with any questions or additional comments.

1. How long have you known this candidate? _____

2. What three words would you use to describe this candidate?

3. In what course is the student currently enrolled? _____
 This course is is not sectioned according to students' ability. If sectioned, this student is enrolled in the _____ of _____ sections.

4. Text(s) used/books read during the year: _____

5. Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas:

	Above Grade Level	Consistent with Grade Level	Below Grade Level
Vocabulary			
Oral			
Written			
Reading			
Speed			
Accuracy			
Ability to Draw Appropriate Inferences			
Writing			
Sentence Structure			
Clarity of Style			
Ability to Organize Ideas in a Logical Sequence			
Spelling			
Punctuation			
Grammar			

6. **ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Motivation					
Intellectual Curiosity					
Creativity					
Work Habits					
Academic Capacity					
Academic Performance					
Ability to Work in Groups					
Ability to Work Independently					
Organization of Time and Work					

7. **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Concern for Others					
Leadership Potential					
Responsibility					
Integrity					
Maturity					
Energy/Initiative					
Relation to Peers					
Relation to Adults					
Reaction to Setbacks					
Reaction to Criticism					
Sense of Humor					
Sense of Confidence					

8. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** *Please feel free to attach a separate letter providing additional information about the student.*

9. **OVERALL RECOMMENDATION:** How do you recommend this student?

	Without Reservation	Strongly	With Reservation	Do Not Recommend
As a Student				
As a Person				

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ TITLE _____

SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

For international schools: PROVINCE _____ COUNTRY _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please contact me to further discuss this student.



APPLICATION

Mathematics Recommendation



STUDENT NAME (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CURRENT GRADE _____ CANDIDATE FOR GRADE _____ IN 20 _____ (year)

TO THE TEACHER: *The above-named student has applied for admission to The Ethel Walker School, a college preparatory school for girls. The Admissions Committee greatly appreciates as complete and accurate an appraisal of the applicant as your experience, knowledge and understanding of her abilities allows. Be assured that the information you provide will only be used to evaluate the candidate for admission and, if admitted, to assist in placement of the candidate. This form will not become part of the student's permanent record should she enroll at the School. You may attach a common recommendation to this form if that is more convenient.*

Please feel free to contact the Admissions Office with any questions or additional comments.

1. How long have you known this candidate? _____

2. What three words would you use to describe this candidate?

3. In what course is the student currently enrolled? _____
 This course is is not sectioned according to students' ability. If sectioned, this student is enrolled in the _____ of _____ sections.

4. Text(s) Used: _____

5. For students applying for grades 9-12, in your opinion, which level mathematics course should this student be ready to advance to in the fall? (Descriptions of the Walker's mathematics curriculum can be found at www.ethelwalker.org.)

- Algebra I (Honors)
 Algebra II (Honors)
 Trigonometry
 AP Calculus AB
 Geometry (Honors)
 Pre-Calculus (Honors)
 Calculus
 AP Statistics

6. **MATHEMATICS SKILLS ASSESSMENT:**
 Please evaluate the applicant's performance in the following areas:

	Above Grade Level	Consistent with Grade Level	Below Grade Level
Addition			
Subtraction			
Multiplication			
Division			
Decimals			
Positive/Negative Numbers			
Fractions			

7. **ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Intellectual Curiosity					
Work Habits					
Academic Capacity					
Academic Performance					
Ability to Work in Groups					
Ability to Work Independently					
Organization of Time & Work					
Understanding of Math Concepts					
Critical Thinking					

8. **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Concern for Others					
Creativity					
Leadership Potential					
Responsibility					
Integrity					
Maturity					
Motivation					
Energy/Initiative					
Relation to Peers					
Relation to Adults					
Reaction to Setbacks					
Reaction to Criticism					
Sense of Humor					
Sense of Confidence					

9. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** *Please feel free to attach a separate letter providing additional information about the student.*

10. **OVERALL RECOMMENDATION:**

How do you recommend this student?

	Without Reservation	Strongly	With Reservation	Do Not Recommend
As a Student				
As a Person				

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ TITLE _____

SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

For international schools: PROVINCE _____ COUNTRY _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please contact me to further discuss this student.



APPLICATION

Transcript Release Form



STUDENT NAME (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CURRENT GRADE _____ CANDIDATE FOR GRADE _____ IN 20 _____ (year)

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARENT/GUARDIAN: Please sign this release form and submit it with the School Recommendation Form to your daughter's current principal or guidance counselor.

I hereby authorize that my daughter's official school transcript records, along with all testing and evaluations, be released to the Admission Office of The Ethel Walker School.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO SCHOOL: The student named above is an applicant for admission to The Ethel Walker School. Please return the following directly to The Ethel Walker School Admission Office:

1. A complete, official transcript of grades and standardized tests **for at least two years**, including the current academic year. Please also enclose any additional testing conducted that pertains to the student's academic, intellectual, social or emotional abilities and needs.
2. A confidential School Recommendation, completed by the principal or guidance counselor, evaluating the applicant. A letter of recommendation which responds to the questions posed on the School Recommendation Form is an acceptable substitute.

Thank you on behalf of the members of The Ethel Walker School Admission Committee.

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APPLICATION

School Recommendation



STUDENT NAME (first) _____ (middle) _____ (last) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CURRENT GRADE _____ CANDIDATE FOR GRADE _____ IN 20 _____ (year)

The above-named student has applied for admission to The Ethel Walker School, a college-preparatory school for girls.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please comment on this student in the following areas and return this recommendation to The Ethel Walker School Admission Office. Be assured that the confidential information you provide will only be used to evaluate the candidate for admission. This form will not become a part of the student's permanent record should she enroll.

If there is other information that you feel would be conveyed more effectively in a personal conversation, please do not hesitate to contact the Admission Office by telephone Monday–Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known this student? _____

2a. **ACADEMIC QUALITIES:**

Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Motivation					
Intellectual Curiosity					
Work Habits					
Oral & Written Skills					

2b. In your estimation, is the student's record of standardized testing an accurate reflection of her potential for academic success?

Yes No Please explain: _____

On which tests are you basing this assessment? _____

2c. What three words would you use to describe this candidate?

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3. **PERSONAL QUALITIES:**

Please evaluate this applicant in the following areas in relation to other students of the same age by placing a check under the rating that best expresses your sense of her:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	N/A
Concern for Others					
Leadership Potential					
Responsibility					
Personal Integrity					
Emotional Maturity					
Relation to Peers					
Relation to Adults					

4. In what areas has the student shown unusual ability or aptitude? _____

5. Do you have any concerns about the student's academic progress? _____

6. Has this student ever been subject to disciplinary action by the school? If so, please explain. _____

7. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:** _____

8. **OVERALL RECOMMENDATION:**

How do you recommend this student?

	Without Reservation	Strongly	With Reservation	Do Not Recommend
As a Student				
As a Person				

9. Size of the student body at your school: _____ Average number of students per class: _____

This form should be accompanied by an official school transcript for at least two years (including the current academic year).

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)		TITLE	
SCHOOL			
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP
For international schools: PROVINCE		COUNTRY	
E-MAIL			
PHONE		FAX	
SCHOOL OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE		DATE	

Please contact me for additional information.



Financial Aid Information



The Ethel Walker School provides a comprehensive, broad-based education for girls in grades 6–12. We offer extensive opportunities for young women to maximize their intellectual gifts, natural talents and leadership acumen. A Walker's education helps create a strong sense of accomplishment, opportunity, confidence and independence.

The School is committed to building a strong and diverse community of students, yet recognizes that not every family has the financial ability to afford the full cost of tuition. Each year, the Financial Aid Committee offers tuition assistance to qualified students on the basis of demonstrated need and the availability of institutional funds. This aid is made possible, in part, through the generosity of alumnae and other friends of the School.

Our financial aid program is based on a family's demonstrated need, as determined by School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS), current year tax returns and W-2s. Once a family applies for financial aid and an award has been made, Walker's makes a commitment to continue this assistance as long as demonstrated need continues and the student remains in good academic and community standing.

Aid awards are recalculated annually and updated financial aid forms and tax documents must be submitted every year.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS

Families need to complete the Parent Financial Statement (PFS) online at www.sss.nais.org, and supply copies of the most recent federal tax return, Form 1040, including all schedules, supporting data and W-2s. The School also requires a completed Form 4506, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

Once the PFS application has been completed and received by SSS, the data is reviewed and an Estimated Family Contribution is recommended. Our school code is **3076**. You will need to include this code with your PFS application in order for Walker's to receive the Report of Family Contribution (RFC) from SSS.

Walker's will review the RFC and adjust the award as necessary in accordance with our own evaluations and in light of other claims on a limited financial aid budget. ***Please note that The Ethel Walker School is not able to meet full need for every student, and the School may not award the full amount recommended by SSS.***

Financial aid is applied toward the cost of tuition, room and board. Additional expenses (such as books, activities, and phone) are incurred at the family's expense. Charges for riding lessons, board for a horse, tutoring or music lessons are not covered in the financial aid award.

All financial information, including award amounts, is kept confidential by the School. We expect recipient families will honor this strict confidentiality.

In administering financial aid, the School takes into account various family situations.

Just as the education provided at The Ethel Walker School is collaboration between students, faculty and staff, we view paying for this education as a partnership between parents, families and the institution.

A. Separated or Divorced Parents:

Walker's expects natural, custodial and step-parents to pay education costs for their daughters to the full extent they are financially able. This principle applies to all parents, even those who are separated or divorced. Walker's is not bound by and will not honor any decree, agreement or legal document excusing a parent from financial responsibility for their daughter's education.

Both natural parents are expected to file all of the necessary forms and to comply fully with all of the guidelines of the aid process. Thus, tax returns and PFS forms are required of all parents.

Remarriage of either natural parent creates a new family unit with new relationships, but since the parents still have a parental obligation, the income and assets of the entire family unit (including new family units and step-parents) are viewed as relevant for the purpose of calculating a family's level of need. Walker's considers the obligations of the parents to their new family situations in determining the aid award, but will not allocate the award on a proportional basis among the families involved. The responsibility for communication and payment rests with the natural parents.

B. Trust and/or "College" Funds:

Trust funds and/or funds or accounts earmarked "for college" are considered student's assets and are treated accordingly. While it may not be possible for a family to draw on principal of such funds, the existence of these funds means that more of the family's current income is available for tuition.

AWARDING FINANCIAL AID FOR NEW FAMILIES

Families who are new to the School should apply for financial aid (if they intend to do so) at the same time they begin the admission application process. Aid award decisions are made independently from admission decisions. There is limited financial aid available and the priority deadline for applying is February 1; financial aid is awarded on a funds-available basis. While there is a large tuition assistance budget, our funds usually do not meet the aggregate need of all qualified applicants.

RENEWAL OF FINANCIAL AID FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

Our policy is to renew financial aid provided:

- the student remains in good academic and social standing;
- continued need is demonstrated;
- re-enrollment deadlines are met;
- financial aid reapplication is completed annually and before the February 1 priority deadline

If a family fails to meet deadlines or to follow the process, they may jeopardize their aid or the amount of their grant for the coming year. They may also lose their preferred status to be considered ahead of new applicants for financial aid.

The financial aid renewal application, PFS, should be filed with SSS before February 1. Go to www.sss.nais.org to file online. If tax forms have not yet been completed, families should use estimated figures to complete the PFS. Once tax forms have been filed, official signed copies must be sent to Walker's to verify estimated figures.

FINANCIAL AID APPEALS

Any family (whether returning or new to Walker's) who has questions about the amount of their grant may request a review of the award. The appeal must be made in writing and addressed to the School's Financial Aid Committee. Additional data may be requested from the parents in support of the appeal. The Financial Aid Committee will review all appeals and a written reply will be sent to the parents; an appeal may be denied and the award package may remain unchanged.

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