Gifted Education: A National Perspective

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
Gifted Children
Shining a light on gifted children

@NAGCGifted
#GiftedMinds
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.
NAGC supports those who help gifted children reach for their personal best.
Advocacy
Community Building
Increase the public's urgency to support the needs of gifted and talented children.
Policies

Advocate for the adoption of policies that promote programs and services in which gifted and talented children will thrive.
Empower supporters to implement effective practices for all gifted and talented children in homes, schools, and communities.
CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

CHANGE POLICIES

FOR GIFTED LEARNERS
SEE ME!
Addressing disproportionality through equitable identification.
Equitable Identification

Ensures school districts have policies and procedures in place to:

• allow for the appropriate identification, referral, and placement of gifted children,
• benchmarked against local norms,
• to increase fairness and inclusion while keeping standards high.
What it Does -

• Ensures school districts have policies and procedures to allow for the appropriate identification, referral, and placement of children who are gifted and talented.

• Requires that school district identification, referral, and placement practices are clearly stated and uniformly implemented to ensure –

• Decisions are based on multiple criteria benchmarked on local norms with no single criteria eliminating a student; and

• Procedures used are nondiscriminatory.
Requires the State Department of Ed to -

• Provide training to teachers and school leaders to learn evidence-based practices to appropriately identify, refer, and place children who are gifted and talented;

• Disseminate guidance on identification, referral, and placement best practices to support local communities;

• Monitor school districts for compliance;

• Collect, disaggregate, and publically report the number of students identified and referred; and

• Provide technical assistance to school districts to support the implementation of this bill.
TEACH ME!
Measuring learning through accountability systems that monitor progress.
Accountability

Ensures that schools and school districts are held accountable for children who are gifted and talented.
What it does -

• Requires the State educational agency to treat students who are gifted and talented as an enumerated, specific, and stand-alone subgroup subject to the same requirements as other subgroups that are enumerated under Federal education law to ensure accountability for all students.

• Aligns the definition of “gifted and talented” with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
Comprehensive State Support

Creates a comprehensive system of supports for school districts to support children who are gifted and talented.
What it does -

• Establishes an Office of Gifted and Talented Programs within the State Department of Education.

• Ensures that each school district has policies and procedures to ensure –

  • Universal screening;

  • Identification, referral, and placement procedures;
What it does…continued -

• Development of a Gifted and Talented Individualized Education Program Plan;

• A range of service options are available;

• Educators, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel of students who are gifted and talented receive quality professional development aligned to the requirements of Federal law.
Requires the State Department of Ed to -

• Establish monitoring, enforcement, and procedural safeguard protocols to support the rights of children who are gifted and talented.

• Monitor school districts for compliance;

• Collect, disaggregate, and publically report the number of students identified, referred and placed; and

• Provide technical assistance to school districts to support the implementation of this bill.
CHALLENGE ME!

Stimulating learning and development through acceleration.
Acceleration

Ensures that school districts have policies in place to allow for students to access content and grade-based acceleration with advanced content, skills, or understanding before a student’s expected age or grade level.
What it does -

Ensures that school districts have policies and procedures to allow students to access content and grade-based acceleration to –

– Provide students with advanced content, skills, or understanding before a student’s expected age or grade level; and

– Allow students to shorten the number of years spent in the school system.
Requires the State Department of Ed to -

• Ensure that school districts provide professional development on acceleration strategies;

• Disseminate guidance on acceleration best practices to support local communities;

• Monitor school districts for compliance; and

• Provide technical assistance to school districts to support the implementation of this bill.
UNDERSTAND ME!

Helping educators understand the nature and learning needs of gifted learners through effective professional learning and preparation.
Professional Development

Ensures that school districts have policies and procedures to allow for professional development that is evidence-based, comprehensive, sustained, and intensive to support gifted and talented students.
What it does -

• Ensures school districts have policies and procedures for professional development that are evidence-based, comprehensive, sustained, and intensive.

• Requires that general education teachers, who work with students who are gifted and talented, receive professional development in gifted education covering a range of competencies such as:

  • Differentiating instruction based on a student’s readiness, knowledge, and skill level;
What it does...continued -

• Selecting, adapting, or creating a variety of differentiated curricula;

• Providing an extension or replacement of the general education curricula, to modify the learning process through strategies including enrichment, acceleration, curriculum compacting, telescoping, grouping, and to select alternative assignments and projects based on individual student needs;

• Understanding the social and emotional needs of gifted students; and

• Recognizing and responding to the characteristics and needs of gifted students from traditionally underrepresented populations.
Requires the State Department of Ed to:

- Disseminate guidance on gifted professional development best practices;

- Monitor school districts for compliance; and

- Provide technical assistance to school districts to support the implementation of this bill.
OUR STRATEGY
Building A Corps Of Advocates
November 2016 - Orlando Convention

NAGC Board of Directors charged the office to create a strategy to “advocate for the adoption of policies that promote programs and services in which gifted and talented children will thrive” through the strategic framework adopted in September, 2016.
Scaling Advocacy
Similar to building a grassroots Presidential campaign, it is necessary to either have strong leaders in the most influential states first or be able to leverage contacts to make inroads in the states that are most influential.
Building on past work, we will serve as a platform for building political organizational capacity for advocacy through -
Empowering and nurturing the traits of political organizing and policy professionals
Self-efficacy
Meaning (e.g., this is about the kids, a cause greater than ourselves to keep the proverbial advocacy fire in the belly lit)
Demonstrating *impact* across our movement
Similar to the concept in physics, we have a lot of potential energy. We just need to tap it and harness it the right way to have the biggest impact to support our kids, teachers, parents, and communities.
Empower supporters to implement effective practices for all gifted and talented children.
Examples of State Momentum: 2019
“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.”

- Michael Jordan
Thank You for All Your Work to Support Gifted Education!

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