

# **Talking Points**

## **GATE Budget 2008-09 and 2009-10**

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- Funding for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) is the only funding that is targeted to our gifted students. While districts are given extra funds and incentives to serve low performers, there are no incentives to meet the needs of these students.
- Gifted students, if not challenged, are likely to lose interest and be turned off by school. They will drop out, disrupt the classroom or under-perform. Once lost, they are unlikely to re-engage in school. Gifted children don't just "take care of themselves."
- Identification of gifted students is critical to providing services needed and cannot be allowed to be ignored. It is a civil right that these students be given a "free and appropriate public education."
- Professional development in differentiation is good for all teachers, and critical for teachers of the gifted.

If specific funding for gifted education is allowed to be redirected by districts in a new budget proposal, accountability for serving these students needs to be assured.

1. Ensure districts are appropriately identifying students from all ethnic and economic groups.
2. Ensure student scores for gifted students are making gains similar to those in other populations of students.
3. Ensure data is collected and reported on services for gifted students.
4. Ensure teachers are trained in providing differentiated instruction in every classroom.
5. Ensure services continue to be provided during the school day, not as an afterschool option.
6. Ensure that parents are aware of options for serving gifted students and how to advocate for those services.