



## House Changes to Gifted Funding in Substitute House Bill 1

The gifted education support component is broken into 4 factors:

- Gifted identification factor at \$5 per ADM – no phase in
- Gifted coordinator factor funded at 1 per 2500 ADM at a level of \$66,375 for FY2010 and \$67,660 for FY2011 – no phase-in (about 670 coordinators)
- Gifted intervention specialist component funded at 1 GIS per organizational unit (roughly each elementary, middle school and high school) at the same level as the core teacher factor (\$56,902 for FY2010 and \$57,812 for FY2011). This component is phased-in at .2 in FY2010, .3 in FY2011, .4 in FY2012 and FY2013, .6 in FY2014 and FY2015, .8 in FY2016 and FY2017 and fully funded in FY2018. This factor is multiplied by the challenge factor. This would equal about 640 GIS in FY2010 and in 960 GIS in FY2011.
- Professional development funds (\$1883) for gifted intervention specialists phased in along with the GIS levels.
- No districts will be allowed coordinator and GIS funding if they do not submit annual gifted plans or if they fail to identify gifted students.
- The funds will go for staffing and used for gifted services under the gifted operating standards with 15% of the funds for units from grades 6 – 12 allowed for services not provided by a gifted intervention specialist (e.g. content and arts specialists)
- Districts that currently receive gifted unit funding may spend no less than the amount they are currently receiving through unit funding.
- Districts that do not receive gifted unit funding may get a waiver for this biennium and possibly an additional year.
- A separate amount of funding will be available for ESC gifted units at \$8.1 million.
- Summer Honors Institutes are reinstated at current levels.
- Gifted funding is to be studied by the funding council – though there is no gifted representation on the funding council.
- Enrichment funds are not to be used for gifted services.
- Twenty additional days is to be studied and a member from a gifted association is to be included in the study group.
- The state superintendent will decide which components will be required by all districts as part of the Core Academic Strategies. These strategies will be required of all districts.
- A gifted performance indicator will be developed by the state superintendent.

### Initial Comments and Concerns

- 1) The House changes are a vast improvement over the governor's plan for gifted funding, which was based on the faulty Odden and Picus recommendations. The funding mechanism does appear to support gifted operating standards.
- 2) The current gifted unit funding system does not apply state share to the gifted components. Any new system of gifted funding is likely to lower funding to districts with low state share.
- 3) Accountability issues remain:
  - a. **No mandate specified in the plan. A phased-in mandated is necessary to ensure gifted children aren't ignored while districts receive more funding.**
  - b. **Length of time for waivers is should be limited to FY2010 for all districts**
  - c. **Gifted should be one of the Core Academic Strategies that are required of all districts including those rated as effective or excellent.**
  - d. **ESCs should also be covered under the spending requirements provision.**
  - e. **Gifted coordinator services should be required before gifted intervention specialist funds flow as is required in the current funding system.**
- 4) **The enrichment language needs to be rewritten to exclude gifted references to ensure access to AP and PSEO courses.**
- 5) **Gifted funding is to be studied by the funding study council and yet there is no gifted representation. Gifted representation is necessary as other funding "experts" have little knowledge of this area. Gifted representation is also necessary for the ESC study as a large part of state funding for ESCs is tied to gifted units.**
- 6) Transition to this system will require legislative will to follow through on subsequent years of funding and services.

**Any funding plan for gifted education in Ohio needs to have the following components:**

- a. Funding for Identification
- b. Funding for gifted coordinators and gifted intervention specialists according to the gifted operating standards already in effect
- c. Funding for professional development as well as curriculum and supplies
- d. Accountability provisions including a mandate for districts to serve gifted students

It is important to understand the current method of gifted funding in Ohio in order to move forward to a new system. The following information provides an outline of the current funding level, an explanation of gifted unit funding, and provides statistics on the current state of gifted service in the state of Ohio.

**Current Estimated 2009 State Gifted Funding:**

**Gifted Funding:**        \$48,006,613

**Gifted Units:**        \$42,188,166\*

**Gifted Id Funds:**     \$4,794,470\*\*

**Summer Programs:**   \$1,026,017\*\*\*

\*Approximately \$33 million in unit funding (coordinators and intervention specialists) flows directly to districts and is included on the SF-3. Approximately \$ 9 million flows to ESCs to hire units that in turn serve districts that contract with the ESC.

\*\*The gifted identification funds Support the appropriate identification of gifted students in districts. A portion of the ID funds are used to support the identification of underrepresented populations. These funds flow directly to districts and are not on the SF-3.

\*\*\*Includes Summer Honors Institutes and Martin Essex programs that are housed at Ohio's universities and are used in part to encourage gifted students to attend Ohio colleges.

- Current state funding for gifted students is largely based on a unit funding system, similar to the system proposed for other categories of students in the governor's new plan. For every 2,500 ADM, a district is eligible for a coordinator unit. For every 1,000 ADM, a district is eligible for a gifted intervention specialist unit. Districts are eligible for a minimum of one coordinator and one gifted intervention specialist.
- The current unit funding system is based on the Pre-2002 state minimum teacher salary schedule which maxes out state payment at \$39,659 per unit depending on years of experience and education. No state share is applied to the units.
- The state currently funds 1,110 units (285 coordinator units and 815 gifted intervention specialist units; 10 units are in transition and will be reallocated).
- Approximately 20% of the identified gifted population is served by these units. Approximately, 7% more of the identified gifted population is served through gifted units fully supported by local funds. 73% of Ohio's gifted students are reported as not served.
- Service to gifted students has dropped from 43% in 1999 to the current level of 27%.
- Gifted funding has been flat for the last six to eight years.
- There are currently 281,870 gifted students identified in Ohio or 15.85% of the Ohio student population.
- Community schools are not currently required to identify gifted students.
- If the current rule for funding were fully implemented, 2,641 units would be required (866 coordinator units and 1710 gifted teacher units). If the operating standards for gifted intervention specialists were implemented, 866 coordinators and 2713 gifted intervention specialists would be required.

For questions and comments, please contact Ann Sheldon, Executive Director of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children at [anngift@aol.com](mailto:anngift@aol.com) or 614-475-4416(office) or 614-325-1185 (cell). For more information about Ohio's gifted children, please go to [www.oagc.com](http://www.oagc.com).