



Handbook for Parent & Affiliate Groups

(Revised 2006)

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I. HELP FOR PARENTS

PARENTING

Parenting a gifted child is an adventure. Your first stop should be to join the Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) Parent Division and receive a copy of the Booklet: “What to Expect When You’re Raising a Gifted Child.” This wonderful booklet defines giftedness according to Ohio guidelines, helps you understand the terms used by educators, describes the characteristics of gifted children, dispels myths, offers tips for helping your child succeed, describes some educational program options that you can ask for in your district, offers resources for outside learning opportunities, suggests how to advocate for your child’s needs and lists resources including websites, books, articles, catalogs and membership in OAGC.

To begin your online search for resources, start with www.Hoagiesgifted.org and www.oagc.com.

If you are looking for a parent group in your area, go to the affiliates link at www.oagc.com or call the OAGC office at 614-337-0386. These groups can offer support, information and discussions with other parents of gifted children and are a wonderful way to pool resources for the benefit of gifted children.

You will find more information about the OAGC Parent Division and Affiliate Parent groups in Section III. AFFILIATION WITH OAGC.

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD

Communicating with your Child’s School & Teacher

This is the first step to ensuring that your child’s needs are addressed in the classroom. You can find suggestions about how to navigate this first, important step in Joan Franklin Smutny’s article, “Communicating Effectively with your Gifted Child’s School” at <http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PDF/sept2002smutny.pdf>.

Make an appointment with the teacher to discuss the matter. Be specific about what you want to talk about. If you don’t hear back after three tries, contact the principal for a meeting. Remember, you all want what is best for the child. Be persistent. Be diplomatic.

You will need to learn a little about the terms used in education in order to communicate with teachers; educate yourself by looking at <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/acronyms.htm>.

To learn more about how to be a successful advocate for your child, see Section IV. ADVOCACY.

WHAT IS THE LAW?

Ohio’s school districts are not required to serve gifted children by law, but they are required to identify students as gifted in grades K - 12. In 1999, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation that updated the process for identifying Ohio’s gifted students. The Law (also called the Ohio Revised Code) specifies, in general terms, how gifted students are to be identified and how they may be served. The Rule (or Ohio Administrative Code) provides the specifics that must be followed in identification. The Rule also provides specifics on how districts may serve gifted children and how state funded gifted units (coordinators and gifted intervention specialists) may be utilized. Ohio districts **must** comply with both the Law and the Rule. To read the Law and Rule, go to the Rule and Law link at www.oagc.com

The State of Ohio Academic Content Standards (guidelines that all districts must use to develop their curriculum) state: “Students who can exceed the grade-level indicators and benchmarks set in the standards must be afforded the opportunity and be encouraged to do so.” The standards go on to say, “Gifted and talented students may require special sources or activities...” You can find copies of the standards in English Language Arts (reading and writing), Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Languages, Technology and the Arts at <http://battelleforkids.com/Standards>.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

The law requires districts to identify students, but NOT to provide service (such as cluster grouping, pullout classes, acceleration, gifted teachers, etc.). Although most districts make their best effort to serve gifted children, there are limited resources and limited enforcement of the Rule or the Law. As you read the rights below, keep in mind that while a district may not be doing all of the following, parents who educate themselves and learn to advocate for gifted students can get results.

The Rule states the rights of gifted parents/students, as follows (paraphrased). Items in quotes are in language taken directly from the Rule.

- 1) The right to be identified. Parents may make specific referrals. Districts have 90 days to do the assessment once they receive the referral.
- 2) The right to be notified within 30 days about screening or identification results.
- 3) The right to be notified within 30 days of the opportunity to appeal any decision about screening, identification or placement in a program.
- 4) The right for parents of students with special education needs, who are disadvantaged, or for whom English is a second language to have an explanation about how the district will ensure equal opportunity and access to identification and service.
- 5) The right for these same students to have special accommodations for the gifted ID assessment process.
 - “The district shall select instruments, from the approved list, (see ODE Documents under the Resources link at www.oagc.com) that will allow for appropriate screening and identification of minority or disadvantaged children, children with disabilities and children for whom English is a second language.”
 - “Tests must be provided and administered in the child’s native language or other mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.”
 - “Tests are selected and administered so as to best insure that when a test is administered to a child with impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the child’s aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factors the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the child’s impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills except where those skills are factors which the test purports to measure.”
 - “Assessments must measure the specific area of gifted ability.”
- 6) The right to have two opportunities for testing each year.
- 7) The right to have test scores from outside of the district accepted, if the assessments are on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) list of approved instruments.
- 8) The right to have instruction and services that are consistent with the gifted child’s education plans. While there is no law that requires service, if the district does provide service, it must:
 - Base instruction on the individual’s needs.
 - Provide a Written Education Plan (WEP) to guide the instruction.
 - Ensure equal access to service -- not pick and choose who is in the program. Districts may set placement criteria, but it must be uniformly applied.
 - “Subjective criteria such as teacher recommendations may be used to determine appropriate service placement but shall not be used to exclude a child from service in the superior cognitive and specific academic areas who would otherwise be eligible.”
 - “The district shall provide parents with periodic reports regarding the effectiveness of the services provided in accordance with the gifted child’s educational plan.”
 - Provide service in the appropriate area of identification. For example, a student identified as gifted in math shouldn’t be provided with arts gifted services.
- 9) The right to withdraw children from gifted programs and services.
- 10) The right to have children reassessed.
- 11) The right to resolve disagreements between parents and the district concerning identification and placement decisions.
- 12) The right to be informed by Gifted Coordinators about the characteristics and educational needs of gifted children.

II. HELP FOR PARENT GROUPS

ORGANIZING A PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Why Should Parents Organize?

Why start a support group for gifted education? What are your goals?

Here are some that parent groups have had:

- ❖ To expand your knowledge about gifted/talented children and their needs.
- ❖ To gain mutual support and help.
- ❖ To advocate and/or effect change.
- ❖ To educate legislators and community to the need for appropriate education for gifted students.
- ❖ To advocate with school administrators and teachers to get appropriate education implemented in the schools.
- ❖ To become a link in the larger chain of state and national organizations.
- ❖ To provide social and enrichment opportunities for children. (Example: Field trips, Saturday enrichment programs, participation in newsletters, family group or play group concept with monthly adventures or activities.)
- ❖ To support or provide resources for the district gifted program.

Many times parent organizations are a direct outgrowth of a program for gifted and talented students in their school system. While a good working relationship with your school is important, you can be more effective if you maintain your group's autonomy.

How Should Parents Organize?

Investigation

- ❖ Read books, periodicals and websites about gifted children and education. Know your facts! Be able to quote recent, relevant and expert research results, as well as examples of what other districts are doing.
- ❖ Talk with other interested parents in your district. Listen to each other and determine priorities. Consider involving all parents who support able learners (i.e., parents who want higher academic standards for their kids) and students identified in specific academic areas, in addition to those identified as cognitively gifted. (See the OAGC Parent Handbook "What to Expect..." for more information on identification. (The parent handbook is under the publications link www.oagc.com)
- ❖ Contact your school administration and/or your Gifted/Talented (GT) Coordinator if you have one. Test the waters to determine receptivity. **Listen.**
- ❖ Contact other parent groups in your area. There is usually a willingness to share experience.
- ❖ Contact state and national organizations to see what guidance and assistance is available.
- ❖ Be a diplomat; find out how you and your organization can help the administrator and the school district.

Organizing Process

- ❖ Gather a group of like-minded people.
- ❖ Determine purpose and goals; put them in writing. (See sample goals, below.)
- ❖ Name your organization. It's good to have a short name that can be easily referred to, or an acronym that can be pronounced. Develop a logo.
- ❖ Write and formally adopt a constitution and by-laws. (See Appendices I & II)
- ❖ Select an Executive Board or Steering Committee and parent representatives/liaisons for each school.
- ❖ Establish regular meetings – decide on frequency, type and location.
- ❖ Arrange for first meeting.
- ❖ Determine membership dues and prepare a membership form.
- ❖ Prepare a budget: dues, expenses, fund-raisers, etc.
- ❖ Select officers – president, treasurer, secretary, program chair, newsletter editor and others your group needs.

Meeting Format

- ❖ Have people at the door to greet arrivals. Have index cards or a sign-in sheet for all attendees to fill out with name, email, address, phone number and school. Keep an updated database of this information.
- ❖ Distribute membership forms and questionnaires. Be prepared to collect membership dues. (To increase membership, consider having new members participate in a lottery for a door prize.)
- ❖ Start promptly.
- ❖ Prepare an agenda, post it or hand it out, and follow it!

- ❖ Allow time for input from those attending.
- ❖ Introduce officers and school representatives or liaisons. Ask for volunteers where needed, including standing committees.
- ❖ Announce next meeting. Determine a “good” time for most people. Set aside the same time and day of the same week of each month.
- ❖ Invite a speaker. Someone who is knowledgeable about your district’s services is a good beginning. Allocate the major portion of the meeting to the speaker and the questions that follow.

Considerations

- ❖ Public Relations – how you are perceived.
- ❖ Interaction with other organizations.
- ❖ Widest possible appeal – no restrictions on membership.
- ❖ Connection with school district – coordinator and/or advisory council. Ask if the GT program will give your information to students and parents.
- ❖ Fundraising and donations.
- ❖ Affiliation – What are the advantages of being an affiliate of OAGC? (See Section III.)

Looking to the Future

- ❖ Keep in contact with your coordinator, principals, superintendent and teachers with regards to services.
- ❖ Organize and publish a newsletter.
- ❖ Periodically evaluate your goals and your progress in meeting them.
- ❖ Share articles of interest with local newspapers and your parent liaisons for each school.
- ❖ Unite the voices of parents so that ways can be found to address the educational needs of able students. For most School Boards, twenty names signing a letter or three people showing up to a Board meeting is a groundswell of support.
- ❖ When advocating for services, you will need to compromise between assertiveness and diplomacy. In general you will not be assertive enough if the district does not think you’re being pushy – but be only as pushy as needed. Keep in mind that changing curriculum takes years. If the administrator is sympathetic, find out where the barriers are and try to push there. Always choose diplomacy first.

Pitfalls

- ❖ *Expecting overnight success.* Never underestimate the lack of knowledge and interest among some administrators.
- ❖ *Trying to do it all at once.* Plan your growth in steps.
- ❖ *Not using volunteers.* Share the work. Keep eliciting support so that your group will grow, not have the same people doing all of the work
- ❖ *Not clarifying volunteer jobs.* People get discouraged when they volunteer for a job that does not need doing.
- ❖ *Personality conflicts.* Everyone has a unique view so emphasize common goals, even if paths differ. Respect each other’s opinions and be willing to compromise. Discuss differences openly and in friendship.
- ❖ *Letting one person take over a meeting with concerns about his own child.* Express sympathy for the situation and suggest continuing the discussion after the meeting, or state at the beginning of the meeting that questions about individual children should be asked after the meeting.
- ❖ *Letting one person take over the meeting with negative comments and ideas.* Keep discussion positive!

Cultivate

- ❖ *Diplomacy,* not just with school personnel, but in all relationships. Parents of children who are not gifted have a difficult time understanding parents of students who hear a different drummer. Develop an empathy for everyone’s situations.
- ❖ *Political awareness.* Keep abreast of local, state and federal legislation and keep members informed.
- ❖ *Staying on track.* Ensure that all decisions and actions of the organization are in keeping with your original goals. Many worthy ideas will arise but implementation will take time and energy away from meeting those original goals. Keep a list of new ideas for possible inclusion in future goals.
- ❖ *Encouragement.* If your group helps one family to understand their child better, it is a success. If your group makes one principal aware of the needs of gifted children, it is a success. Keep track of your successes and congratulate yourself on them.

Remember to promote the needs of the gifted, but never at the expense of other children. We expect educational opportunities for our children appropriate to their ability to learn. This is a realistic expectation - do not be deterred from it!

Be Aware, Be Patient, Be Persistent

SAMPLE PURPOSE, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES FOR PARENT GROUPS

When forming your purposes and goals ensure that you are not duplicating efforts in your community.

Purpose

To determine the purpose, decide what you want to accomplish by forming this group. The following are a few examples

- ❖ To solicit support for gifted and talented children from local and state policy makers (School Board members, administrators, legislators) and interested community organizations, businesses and industries.
- ❖ To share information in the educating and parenting of gifted children.
- ❖ To seek new experiences for the advancement of gifted and talented children by providing exposure to cultural and other educational opportunities.

Goals

To determine goals, be sure they fulfill your purpose. Plan long-term goals for long-range planning and plan short-term, more immediate objectives, for implementation during the current school year. Ideally, objectives will be small steps to achieving the longer-term goals. The following are a few examples:

- ❖ To work with local school administrators to implement, expand or refine a program of instruction for gifted students in your school district.
- ❖ To publish a monthly newsletter to be sent to all members of the organization, school, school personnel, local legislators and interested community organizations and businesses.
- ❖ To provide for the education of elected officers in the needs of the gifted.
- ❖ To establish a library containing material to educate parents and teachers in understanding gifted children.
- ❖ To establish a legislative committee to promote legislative education and support on behalf of gifted children.

Objectives

- ❖ To establish a mentorship program.
- ❖ To provide sharing opportunities for parents to learn how to deal with the challenges of raising gifted children.
- ❖ To hold monthly meetings with informative programs.
- ❖ To offer field trips of interest to local gifted students.
- ❖ To create parent liaisons for each school in the district.

Duties of group's Executive Board or Steering Committee

The President should call periodic Board meetings, which could be held one hour before general meetings. For continuity it is suggested that the office of Vice President advance to the office of President and that the Past President serve on the Executive Board as an advisor. A Past President is a good choice for the Procedures Chair.

President:

- ✓ Conducts meetings
- ✓ Represents the organization to the community
- ✓ Attends meetings that are important to gifted policy

Vice President:

- ✓ Coordinates monthly speakers
- ✓ Fills in for President

Secretary:

- ✓ Records minutes
- ✓ Correspondence
- ✓ Keeps database of members

Treasurer:

- ✓ Collects dues, pays bills
- ✓ Provides monthly updates

Procedures Chair:

- ✓ Roberts Rules, By-Laws, precedent

Communications Chair:

- ✓ Prepares publicity materials and newsletter
- ✓ Updates website regularly

Duties of Local School Liaisons

Choose a parent from each school in the district. That parent should have a gifted child in the school and should be willing to learn about gifted children and their needs. The representative's goal is to establish a strong rapport between the school and the organization's Executive Board. Responsibilities of the school representatives include:

- ✓ Educating themselves about the educational needs of gifted students and passing on this information to educators and parents.
- ✓ Establishing a good rapport with the principal and the teacher(s) of the school's program.
- ✓ Keeping current a list of the names and addresses of parents whose children are enrolled in the school's program.
- ✓ Serving on the telephone/email committee.

III. AFFILIATION WITH OAGC

OHIO ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) is comprised of parents, educators and community members dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all gifted children in the State of Ohio. It has four divisions: Coordinator Division (for gifted coordinators – each district has to have one), Teacher Division, Parent Division and Higher Education Division.

OAGC MISSION

To promote and support the development of gifted students through dissemination of information, advocacy on their behalf, encouragement of affiliate organizations and to promote research and education for gifted children.

The gifted child is defined as one who shows exceptionally high ability in one of the following:

- ✧ intellectual capacity
- ✧ academic aptitude
- ✧ creative ability
- ✧ artistic talent

Parents can become an individual member of OAGC, as well as a member of the Parent Division. Also, parent groups can become affiliate groups of the OAGC.

BENEFITS TO OAGC GENERAL MEMBERS

- ✓ Conference Discounts: yearly teacher academies, annual statewide conference.
- ✓ Receipt of Publications: Review journal (quarterly); informational updates.
- ✓ Current Information: OAGC website, sponsorship of OHIOGIFT listserv, opportunities to run for office.
- ✓ Scholarship Funding: three opportunities per year to recommend gifted students for scholarships.
- ✓ Advocacy: promotion and monitoring of legislation affecting gifted students, updated information, a collective voice for the gifted.
- ✓ Membership Packages: reduced rates for magazine subscriptions - Gifted Child Today, Creative Kids and/or the Journal for Secondary Gifted Education.
- ✓ Company Discounts: All members can enjoy discounts from listed companies.

BENEFITS TO PARENT DIVISION MEMBERS

- ✓ OAGC Parent Division list-serve: networking, problem-solving, information, updates on current issues and legislation electronically or through mail if Internet access not available.
- ✓ Parent Handbook
- ✓ Searchable CD-ROM containing information for parents of gifted children.
- ✓ A place at the table on behalf of gifted children; your voice counts in effecting local and state policy.

BENEFITS TO AFFILIATE GROUPS

- ✓ Directory of OAGC Speakers and Regional Representatives.
- ✓ Coverage under the OAGC group exemption for tax-free status.
- ✓ Two half-price admissions to the OAGC annual conference or \$200 seed money for gifted education activities available annually to each affiliate group. (See application for seed money in Appendix VIII.)
- ✓ Upon request to the OAGC office, 10 free copies of the OAGC Parent Handbook each year. Additional copies are available for the following fees: 1-9 Copies \$2.00 each (includes shipping and handling); 10-99 Copies \$1.00 each (includes shipping and handling); 100+ Copies \$.50 each (plus cost for shipping and handling).
- ✓ Shared support with other OAGC Affiliate groups and networking with those groups.

- ✓ Access to state level leadership in gifted education.
- ✓ Annual orientation meeting with other affiliate groups.
- ✓ Advocacy alerts.
- ✓ Non-profit status (tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization).
- ✓ Rights to reprint columns from the Advocacy Corner of the OAGC Review as well as most articles from the OAGC website in affiliate newsletters and publications without specific permission, but with proper citation. (For other Review articles, please check with each author for permission and credit requirements to avoid violating copyright laws. See current rule and law located at www.oagc.com.)

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN OAGC AFFILIATE GROUP

- ✓ Three members of your organization must have an OAGC basic membership.
- ✓ Two of the persons referenced above must be officers of the affiliate group.
- ✓ Draft, adopt and submit to OAGC a set of bylaws that contain an appropriate dissolution clause (see Appendix II for samples).
- ✓ Annually submit required forms to the VP for Affiliate Relations. (see below).
- ✓ Obtain EIN number (See Appendix IV).
- ✓ Send a representative to the Parent Division meetings (usually quarterly).
- ✓ A representative of your group must attend an annual orientation meeting in Columbus or your OAGC Region.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFFILIATES AND OAGC

OAGC supports affiliate groups in the manner mentioned above, but does not monitor or suggest group activities or relationships. While affiliate groups are independent of OAGC, the Executive Director and Executive Board are always available for help or advice. OAGC may occasionally ask affiliates to help by surveying their members or passing on important information.

Following are a few items about record-keeping:

1. OAGC requires that each affiliate group annually submit the following documents to the Vice President for Affiliates in order to maintain affiliate status:

- Affiliate Bylaws
- Affiliate Information Form
- Financial Statement
- List of Activities

The Vice President for Affiliates will send out letters requesting these updates annually.

2. Sample treasury reports, membership reports, contribution receipts, bylaws and financial statements are contained in Appendix VI. Although OAGC does not offer any training literature to affiliates for record keeping, you can request advice from the Vice President for Affiliates.

3. Each affiliate group should have a treasurer who documents all cash and material donations. Donations and expenses should be recorded on a treasury report.

- Receipts for cash donations are not required, but many donors will desire and request a receipt for their IRS reporting purposes. A simple receipt book purchased from a local office supply store will suffice for these purposes.
- Contributions and donations of cash and materials may be solicited via direct mail, door-to-door inquiry, etc.
- Affiliate groups may solicit and charge for advertising in affiliate newsletters, taking care that the mission of the advertiser is not in conflict with the mission of the affiliate or OAGC.

Sample Constitution and By-Laws

It is suggested that affiliates function with a Steering Committee during the first months or year. The Steering Committee, which will select a chair from among its members. You should conduct your business according to Robert's Rules of Order. First, draft and adopt a constitution and by-laws. The most important rules are placed in the constitution; those most likely to be changed are placed in the By-Laws. The constitution should be more difficult to amend than the by-laws.

See Appendices I & II for a sample constitution and by-laws. Currently many organizations draft only a single document, usually called the by-laws. Since the Ohio Association for Gifted Children functions under both a constitution and by-laws, affiliates should function in a similar manner. The guidelines are merely a sample; adapt them to suit your organization's needs. (The statements in parentheses are explanations and are not part of the documents.)

These documents are important to hold officers harmless from liability for the organization and to ensure that they abide by laws and regulations applying to nonprofit organizations.

Other Paperwork FAQs

Q-How do we find out if our group's affiliate status current?

A-Please e-mail the Vice President for Affiliates at samidon@columbus.rr.com for this information.

Q-Do we need to file any additional forms with the State/Federal/County/City Governments?

A-No, the forms that your group completes and sends to OAGC are all the documents required for tax and business purposes.

Q-Does our affiliate group hold non-profit 501(c)(3) status with the IRS?

A-Yes, as an affiliate of OAGC, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, your group also carries this non-profit designation. As a non-profit group, you are entitled to receive tax deductible donations and make tax exempt purchases.

Q-What is our EIN# for tax-exempt purchases?

A-Affiliate EIN# may be obtained from the Vice President for Affiliates.

IV. ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY - FOR YOUR CHILD

When faced with the need to speak on behalf of their gifted students, most parents quickly find that what is happening with their child is inextricably linked to the larger context of education – what is happening in the classroom, the school, the district, etc. When your child needs challenge, help or support at school, the kind of response you will get is affected as much by the quality of leadership as by the quality of teaching and parent support, not to mention available resources. Most parents of gifted students eventually discover their own child is only one of many who need help.

An educated and informed parent makes a better advocate for his or her children. One of the most important tools for successful advocacy is becoming familiar with your child's school setting and the people in charge. Learn how your school and the school district are organized. Familiarize yourself with what is supposed to be happening in the classroom, in the school and in the district.

Establish yourself as an ally to education, through your words and deeds. You can begin by making an effort to meet the teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, secretaries, custodians and principals at your child's school. Another way to demonstrate your support for the school and to win allies in the building is to volunteer in some capacity that will help many children. Parents who project a positive image and who respect the efforts of all those involved in education win more allies than those who show up just to complain.

There are many online resources for how to help your child at school. The article "Advocating for Appropriate Education for your Child," by Colleen Elam of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented covers the following: Learn the Status Quo, Establish Yourself as an Ally to Education, Know What Should be Happening, Give Credit for Jobs Well Done, Choose your Battles, Prepare your Case and Present your Case. Here is an excerpt from "Present your Case,"

For a classroom problem, contact the teacher first. For a school problem, speak with the principal. Follow the established chain of command in your district. Traditionally it is: teacher>principal>instructional specialist or gifted coordinator>superintendent>School Board. If you are unsure of the protocol in your district ask a secretary in the principal's office.

Many districts may have gifted specialists that work directly with teachers: meeting jointly with the gifted specialist and the classroom teacher can be a good way to start. Developing a friendly relationship with the school secretary is always a good idea. The following excerpt from "Present your Case" suggests meeting strategies.

Call for an appointment first, but be prepared in case the person is able to speak with you at that time. Leave a message with your name, your child's name, your telephone number at work and home (or cell phone) and the reason for requesting a return call or appointment..... Allow 24 hours for your call to be returned, then call again. If your call is not returned after three tries, move up the chain of command.

Greet the person warmly. Your tone of voice can set the tone of the entire conversation and the consequent actions and reactions. Thank the person for returning your call or meeting with you. Then come immediately to the point. State your facts calmly and in order. Ask your questions or make your request. Then listen without interruption. Take notes on the response. Briefly repeat back your interpretation of what was said; if you need clarification of a point, this is the time to ask. If it is necessary for you to respond with an answer, agree on a time when you will communicate again.

Build bridges; do not burn them. No two people have the exact same beliefs on all issues. Supply data to support your position and back it up with personal stories. Include yourself in the suggested win-win solution.

If you are happy with the result of the meeting, say so and say thank you. However, if you are not happy, take your case to the next higher level on the chain of command and then the next. Keep trying and don't be discouraged. Consider compromises.

Through this entire process you are teaching your children. First and foremost, you are demonstrating in actions that you love them and consider their education a priority. Second, you are modeling some of the most important lessons in life: every human counts, so respect others as well as yourself; problem-solving involves creativity, logic, protocol, challenge, time, and commitment; think before you respond; take control of any situation as it occurs in your life; act, don't react; be positive and persistent and fight for what you believe in.

Advocating for appropriate education for your child is a continuous process. Your positive, persistent, involvement will foster your child's success in school and life.

(Excerpted from "Advocating for Appropriate Education for your Child," by Colleen Elam of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented.)
http://eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2/content_storage_01/0000000b/80/25/28/1f.pdf . It takes about 15 minutes to download.

ADVOCACY - LOCAL LEVEL

As stated above, advocacy for your own child often leads you to consider what is needed in your district. If you have the time and commitment, join your local parent group, PTA or other group that can foster change. Attend School Board meetings and become knowledgeable about such things as the district Acceleration Policy. Check for district websites about gifted and talented services. Meet your Gifted Coordinator and find out what he or she needs to improve services to gifted students.

Get to know the decision-makers on a personal basis and communicate with them frequently. This will allow you to build a relationship of trust and make you the "go to" person on a particular issue. It also allows you to get a feel for the person and the district's hot-button issues.

Get to know your local School Board. They need to know your group exists and that you are current on your information. If your district has a policy committee, a task force on something, a forum or any other policy-making body, make sure someone represents the gifted view. Decisions are often made only from the perspective of the people sitting at the table. So make sure you get a seat at the table! Never let a slur to your issue go unanswered.

Parent groups can be very effective, even in small numbers. By developing a reputation for a reasoned approach as well as a fierce commitment to appropriate education for gifted children, many gifted parent groups have facilitated change in district and regional policy. A tremendous satisfaction comes from knowing you have made a difference in the lives of many children.

ADVOCACY - REGIONAL LEVEL

As you become more knowledgeable about district services, you realize that they are affected by regional issues, especially in rural areas. Training for teachers goes on at Regional Service Centers. Gifted Coordinators have regional meetings. Identification in the visual and performing arts is often done at a regional level. Special Education advocates, who struggle with many of the same issues are organized at a regional level. OAGC holds regional meetings where you can meet other parents with the same concerns and share solutions with them. By becoming involved at the regional level you can share the knowledge you have gained and learn from others' experiences.

Here are some ideas:

- Attend regional OAGC meetings for orientation to OAGC programs and activities and to network with gifted educators.
- Visit the OAGC website to find nearby parent groups.
- Attend meetings of other parent groups.
- Join the OHIOGIFT and Parent Division list serves, where you can ask questions of other parents and teachers.
- Develop business partnerships to benefit your district and region.
- Build relationships between coordinators and parents by connecting to the coordinator groups.

Maximize regional resources to build capacity for parent groups:

- Connect with other parent groups.
- Coordinate to bring in a speaker, have larger functions.
- Share strategies.
- Form multi-district groups to grow or strengthen smaller groups.
- Join with PTA's for meetings and to bring in speakers.
- Network with Non-public schools - parochial, charter, independent, home school networks.
- Communicate among parents, coordinator and teacher groups to share information.

ADVOCACY - STATE LEVEL

As you become more aware of issues at the regional level, you realize that the big picture solutions come at the state level. OAGC is involved in educating legislators, sharing information and resources with the Ohio Department of Education and sponsoring annual conferences where vendors, presenters and gifted educators of all sorts, including parents, can learn and grow.

The first, most important step to becoming aware of state issues is to join OAGC. If you join the Parent Division as well, you will be included on the Parent listserve. You can also join two other list serves: OhioGift, or the GTAdvocate loop. For information on how to do that, see Internet Advocacy below.

OAGC is a statewide organization. Encourage your group to affiliate with OAGC, as there is strength in numbers.

How Affiliate Groups Can Help Educate Legislators.

One of OAGC's functions is to educate legislators to the needs for gifted education.

When an important issue comes up and you realize you need to contact legislators, here are some tips:

- Know who your representatives and senators are at both the state and federal levels. Know where they stand on various issues.
- Designate someone in your organization to keep abreast of legislative issues relating to education in general and gifted education in particular.
- Inform your members when a letter or phone campaign is necessary. Form a telephone committee to facilitate this action. At least once a year include in your newsletter a sample letter to a legislator.
- Read *The Concerned Parent's Guide to Making Ohio Legislators Pay Attention to the Needs of Gifted Children* at on the advocacy page at www.oagc.com. You will find a sample letter in this document.
- Look for advocacy alerts under the advocacy link on www.oagc.com.
- Legislator addresses and phone numbers are also under the advocacy link.

At times OAGC will send a call to action for a state or national issue. Your response will have a direct effect on the outcome.

OAGC can provide your group with further legislative information at your request. For more information contact the Executive Director:

Ann Sheldon
OAGC Executive Director
(614) 475-4416
email: anngift@aol.com

INTERNET ADVOCACY

Sharing information through email list serves is an effective way to stay abreast of gifted education concerns, as well as to find resources and ask questions. Many knowledgeable members generously share their experience.

Directions for joining the following two list serves are also available at the advocacy link on the OAGC website at www.oagc.com

“OHIOGIFT”

OHIOGIFT is an e-mail list for Ohio. It is intended to serve Ohio's gifted education community. It is open to parents, educators, college and university persons and community people. However, it is an open list, meaning there are no restrictions on membership. Anyone can join. This list now has members from several states and Australia.

OHIOGIFT serves two purposes. First, to share information, ideas and concerns that are especially important to Ohio's gifted community – for example, identification, emotional concerns, curriculum issues and parent and community concerns. Secondly, it serves as a place to post meeting announcements of interest to the Ohio community interested in gifted education.

If you have e-mail, you can join OHIOGIFT.

1. Users may subscribe to OHIOGIFT by sending e-mail to this address: listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu
Leave the subject line blank. The body of the message **MUST** contain the following lines:
Subscribe OHIOGIFT Firstname Lastname.
The subscriber replaces “Firstname” and “Lastname” with their own first and last names.
2. To have a message distributed to the OHIOGIFT list, subscribers must send the message to the following address:
OHIOGIFT@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu
3. Subscribers can remove themselves from a list by sending mail to: listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu
with the request, in the body of the message:

unsubscribe OHIOGIFT

This must be the ONLY text in the body of the message.

4. The list manager is Art Snyder.. You may reach him with questions or comments at: ArtSnyder44@cs.com

“GTAdvocate”

OAGC is pleased to offer a service for those in the world of gifted and talented who want to keep abreast of advocacy issues, but who do not have time for the amount of e-mail generated by Ohiogift. We have structured a gifted and talented e-mail loop that is limited to advocacy issues. The loop will be one-way and closely controlled. Most of the postings will be duplicated on Ohiogift so if you are happy with the format of the listserv, there is no need to change. Here are the e-mail loop sign-up procedures and rules:

1. Send an e-mail directly to gtadvocate@aol.com with a short message saying that you wish to be part of the e-mail loop.
2. If you sign up as a loop member, by default, you agree that any message that you send back to gtadvocate@aol.com may be posted to the e-loop at the discretion of the "loop master" -- unless you specifically request that the message not be shared. If you are don't want your message shared, just stick a "do not share" note in the subject line or within the body of the text.
3. If you wish to be removed from the e-mail loop, send a note to gtadvocate@aol.com with a short message asking that the address be deleted.

APPENDIX I: **SAMPLE** CONSTITUTION

These guidelines are merely a sample; feel free to adapt in any way to suit your organization's needs. (The statements in parentheses are explanations and are not part of the documents.)

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND DEFINITION

- Section 1: The name of this organization shall be _____.
- Section 2: The gifted child shall be defined as one who shows superior ability in one or more of the following areas:
- 1) superior cognitive ability.
 - 2) specific academic ability.
 - 3) creative thinking ability.
 - 4) visual and/or performing arts ability; dance, drama, art and music.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the association is to foster an awareness of the needs of gifted children and to promote the utilization of home, school and community resources for their benefit.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the education and general welfare of gifted children.
- Section 2: There shall be the following classes of membership:
- a. Active: An active member is one who supports all functions of the organization by paying dues, attending meetings, voting and serving on committees, etc.
 - b. Charter: A charter member is someone who is especially recognized for his or her part in initiating the organization. He has the same responsibilities and privileges of an active member. (At some future time in your organization's history, you may choose to amend this section to relieve the Charter Members from fiscal obligations.)
 - c. Honorary: An honorary member is one who is recognized as having reached a level of expertise in the field of gifted children. Honorary members shall be entitled to all privileges of active members, except voting and holding office. They shall not be required to pay dues. The Executive Committee shall present the names of the prospective honorary members at a regular meeting.
(This category will give credibility to your organization by honoring respected persons who have been advocates for your purpose. This honor should not be given lightly.)

ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS

- Section 1: The elected officers of this organization shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and they shall constitute the Executive Committee.
(Many times the immediate Past President serves on the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity only.)
- Section 2: A candidate for office shall have been a member for at least one full year. No officer or committee chair shall serve more than two consecutive years in the same board position.
- Section 3: Nominating Committee – The nominating committee shall be composed of a chair and four members. The chair and one member shall be appointed by the Executive Board and three members shall be elected by the general membership. This election will be held at the first general meeting of the fiscal year.
- Section 4: The nominating committee shall meet prior to the March Executive Board meeting to select a single slate of officers. With the approval of the Executive Board, the slate will be presented to the membership in April and will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May.
(The slate may be presented to the membership in April either at a general meeting or through the mail/email.)

- Section 5: Nominations shall be presented by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominees at this meeting, each nomination requiring a second. In the event of additional nominations, all such positions shall be voted on by ballot.
- Section 6: The newly elected officers shall be installed at the Annual Meeting and assume their duties at the June Executive Board Meeting. They shall hold office for a period of one year. (The officers will assume their duties at the June Executive Board Meeting, with the exception of the treasurer who will assume duties after the close of the fiscal year and an audit. Whenever there is an overlap of time between the installation and assumption of duties, that time should be used for officers to work together to facilitate an orderly transition.)
- Section 7: A vacancy in any office shall be filled by election at the first regular meeting following the vacancy. Nominees for office shall be presented by the Nominating Committee and nominations may also be received from the floor. All nominations shall be acted on at the same meeting.

ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS

- Section 1: There will be a minimum of three meetings during the school year. The meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 2: The May meeting is designated as the Annual Meeting.
- Section 3: Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of ten members on a week's notice.

ARTICLE 6: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution. (www.robertsrules.com)

ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENTS

- Section 1: Constitution – the constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting of the association by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting provided that written notice has been given to all members prior to that meeting.
(The newsletter, monthly publication, or email can be used for this purpose.)
- Section 2: By-Laws – the By-Laws may be amended at any regular general meeting by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting provided that written notice has been given to all members prior to that meeting.

ARTICLE 8: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all assets of this organization shall be transferred to an organization organized and operated exclusively as a non-profit organization, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(An article of dissolution is a requirement for OAGC affiliation.)

APPENDIX II: SAMPLE BYLAWS

These guidelines are merely a sample that you will need to adapt to suit your organization's needs. (The statements in parentheses are explanations and are not part of the documents.)

ARTICLE 1: FINANCE AND DUES

- Section 1: The fiscal year of the organization shall be July 1 to June 30. An annual audit shall follow the close of the fiscal year.
- Section 2: Dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee. (This could also be one of the decisions given to the Executive Board.) Membership dues shall be paid by November 1. (You may also include which officer or committee chair will collect the dues.)
- Section 3: The dues shall entitle a member to the privileges of active membership.

ARTICLE 2: OFFICERS

- Section 1: President – The President shall preside at regular general meetings, Executive Board and/or Executive Committee meetings. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except Nominating. He/She shall have been a member of the Executive Board for at least one year prior to his election. He/She will represent the association in any activity related to the education or interests of gifted and talented children and may delegate any general member to so represent the association, if the President or Vice-President is unable to attend. The President will call and preside at a minimum of nine meetings.
- Section 2: Vice-President – The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall serve as Program Chair.
- Section 3: Secretary – The Secretary shall record the minutes of all General meetings of the organization and of its Executive Board and Executive Committee. He/She shall also have the responsibility of all necessary correspondence.
(As your organization grows, you may wish to include a corresponding secretary among your officers to relieve the recording secretary of some duties. Suggested responsibilities include: newsletter, duplication of materials, notification of executive meetings, etc.)
- Section 4: Treasurer – The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the organization and shall pay out funds. He/She shall report in writing, monthly, all financial transactions. In September, he/she shall give notice of dues and at the end of the fiscal year have the books ready for the annual audit. The Treasurer shall arrange for the audit by either three active members of the organization or an auditor.
- Section 5: Parliamentarian – The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. He/she shall be required to attend all General Meetings, all meetings of the Executive Board and any special meetings called by the President. The Parliamentarian shall also serve on the Constitution Committee. (This person could be called Procedures Chair and as such would be familiar with tradition and actions by the organization.)

ARTICLE 3: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers. This committee shall meet at the call of the President and take care of special situations that arise between regular meetings. (It is often beneficial to include recent past presidents on the Executive Committee to serve as advisors.)

ARTICLE 4: EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Section 1: The Executive Board shall be composed of the Executive Committee, all Standing Committee Chairmen and the Nominating Committee Chair. The board shall hold regular monthly meetings and a majority shall constitute a quorum. The board shall transact all necessary business between regular meetings of the organization. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of three members on a week's notice.
- Section 2: Executive Board members must attend all Board and General meetings unless excused by the President. (Attendance by committee chairs and officers at all meetings is vital to the organization.)

ARTICLE 5: COMMITTEES

- Section 1: Appointments – The President shall appoint the chairs of the Standing and Special Committees with the approval of the Executive Committee. (Standing Committees are those that function every year.)
- Section 2: Standing Committees – Each committee shall have one vote on the Executive Board.
- a. Annual Meeting
 - b. Publicity
 - c. Newsletter
 - d. Membership
 - e. Ways and Means
 - f. Hospitality
 - g. Constitution and By-Laws
 - h. Legislative
 - i. Technology
- (In small groups it would be acceptable to have elected officers assume the duties of these committee chairs. Suggestions for other possible committees include: scholarship, enrichment activities for gifted children, telephone, community outreach, etc.)
- Section 3: Duties of Committee Chairs
- a. The chair shall appoint a co-chair if necessary
 - b. The chair shall fulfill the duties as stated in the committee descriptions.
(Write descriptions of each committee detailing how it will function and what it is expected to accomplish.)
 - c. The chair shall submit an annual report in writing in duplicate at the Executive Board meeting prior to the annual meeting. One copy is to be filed with the chair who shall succeed him/her and the other to the President.
 - d. The chair of the standing committees shall present general plans of work to the Executive Board for approval. No action shall be taken until the general plans are approved. Upon approval of such plans, the committee shall execute other instructions that may be given it by the Executive Board.

APPENDIX III: GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

TIPS FOR NEWS RELEASES

HOW TO CONTACT

- Phone
- Mail
- E-mail
- Fax
- Drop off in person

WHEN TO ALERT THE MEDIA

- Unique Events
- Service Projects in Community
- Recruiting Events
- Human Interest Possibilities
- Fund Raising Events
- Award Ceremonies

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN THE NEWS RELEASE

- All the facts (“5 W’s & H”)
 - Who
 - What
 - Where
 - When
 - Why
 - How
- A quote from a participant
- Contact name for more details
- Personal Note
- Pictures (Color prints are o.k.; don’t ask them to be returned)
- Keep it simple

WHAT THE MEDIA WILL USE

- The New York Times motto on the mast says: “All the news that’s fit to print”
 - When dealing with most newspapers: “All the news that fits we print”
- FACTORS DETERMINING WHAT THEY WILL USE
 - Amount space/time available
 - Time of year
 - TV air time is constant
 - News Departments are always busy

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL RELEASES

- Institute a Media Relations Coordinator Job
- News Releases must look important
- Be timely and newsworthy
- Get to know your ‘media contacts’
- Include personal note
- Get students involved
- Tell TV about action possibilities
- Include the time of peak action
- Contact in advance of event
- Don’t assume anything
- Keep the News Release to one page
- Use Official titles
- Include number of participants
- Send thank-you notes after event

- Send a small token of appreciation:
 - At the time of the Release
 - After the event
 - Pencil/Pens
 - Stickers
 - Patch
- Invite a media personality

You will have more success if you keep some simple principles in mind:

- For smaller, community-oriented newspapers: the easier it is for the newspaper, the more likely they will publish. Your press release is more likely to be published as a story if it is written like the stories already being published in the newspaper.
- For bigger newspapers: conflict gets published, human interest less so. A “story” in the journalism lexicon is just like you learned in English class: it has a protagonist and antagonist, a conflict. The difference is a newspaper is willing to publish a story simply reporting the details of the conflict. In fact, the story reporting the resolution of the conflict often is not as interesting as the conflict itself, so it less likely to be published. They are willing to carry stories about events, but will give them little space.
- A specific reporter covers education for your town. (In most instances, the reporter who covers school sports is likely not the one covering education.) The reporter has a long list of towns and topics to cover, so there is very little time for your story. Read related stories about your school district and note the name of the reporter. Go to School Board meetings, which are your best chance to meet that reporter. If you can’t find a reporter name, contact the school staff member associated with activities that are being published and ask for their advice on how to get stories published, including whom they send it to and what their needs are.
- Call the editor and ask for guidance on what kinds of stories they like to publish. Ask if there is a specific reporter you should talk with. Editors will gladly pass you to someone who works for them, if possible.
- To explore more detail on this topic, see if your local library has a book about writing press releases.
- Timing is important: the news release has to be timely. This means you have to have already written and sent the press release at the time of the event. Find out what the deadlines are for all media and calendar formats. Weekly newspapers typically have a deadline three days before the newspaper appears on your doorstep.
- If you have more than one newspaper covering your school district, you might find you will be published more often if you develop just one of the newspapers as your exclusive location.

COMMON NEWS RELEASE PROBLEMS

- Not enough information
- Incomplete information
- No contact information
- No follow-up call
- No media notification

WHAT IF NO COVERAGE APPEARS

- Demands are high, space is tight
- Resources are limited.
- Don’t give up. Don’t burn any bridges. Try again.
- Many times news coverage is a matter of luck!!
- *Remember: “Never Argue with Anyone who Buys Ink by the Barrel”*

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE

Add a personal note to the Editor requesting news coverage.

Date: Today's Date

To: News Editor
Name of Publication

From: Name / Title / Address / Phone / Fax / Email

ACTION HEADLINE GOES HERE

**ANSWER THE "5 W'S & H" IN THE BODY OF YOUR NEWS RELEASE.

**INCLUDE QUOTES IF POSSIBLE

**MAKE THE RELEASE AS INTERESTING AS POSSIBLE.

WHO:

WHAT:

WHEN:

(PLUS THE BEST TIME TO ATTEND THE EVENT FOR NEWS COVERAGE PURPOSES)

WHERE:

WHY:

HOW:

Add a "Quote" or Education Fact, such as:



"Did you know that there are over X,XXX gifted students served in the Westerville Schools?"

For more information: President xxxx xxxxxx @ 599-xxxx, xxx@xxx.xxx

ORGANIZATION NAME & ADDRESS

APPENDIX IV: OAGC FORM AND IRS-EIN INSTRUCTION

To become an affiliate group, the contact person for the group must obtain an EIN from the IRS by completing an SS-4 form.

Q - What is an EIN ?

A - An EIN is a nine-digit number (for example, 12-3456789) assigned to sole proprietors, corporations, partnerships, estates, trusts and other entities for tax filing and reporting purposes. The information you provide on this form will establish your business tax account. An EIN is for use in connection with group business activities only. Do not use your EIN in place of your personal social security number (SSN).

In order to complete the SS-4 form go to www.irs.org. Click on EIN at the top of the page. Then follow the instructions. (see below)

Q - Do we need to file any additional forms with the IRS?

A – Once you have completed the EIN form and shared it with OAGC, all additional IRS filing is taken care of by OAGC.

FYI – ONLINE HELP

Overview - Tax9er.com has developed a *Tax ID Number Form Genie* to assist you in preparing your IRS SS-4 Application. IRS estimates that preparing the form takes 94 minutes but our users complete in an average of 9 minutes. https://www.tax9er.com/fg/bin/fg.pl?affiliate_id=%25affiliate_id%25&app_id=fss4

Benefits:

- * Online help and IRS instructions provided at every step
- * Validation performed to ensure your application is error-free
- * Multiple delivery options to IRS including phone-in, fax, or mail
- * Significantly reduced time to complete application
- * E-mail confirmation of IRS receipt with fax delivery option

When you have completed the data entry steps, you'll be given the option to phone in or fax in your completed application. Phoned applications to IRS TELE-TIN are assigned EINs during the time of your call (during normal business hours).

Faxed applications are processed by IRS within 4 business days and your EIN will be faxed to you. Fax is the preferred delivery option after hours, on weekends and holidays and for users who wish to avoid a telephone call to IRS.

Cost - You may preview the *Tax ID Number Form Genie* at no cost. If you wish to print your completed application or have them fax it directly to the IRS for you, the cost is \$12.00.

HELP WITH THE SS-4 FORM

You will be filling in lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 8a and 9-16

1. Contact person's name
2. Affiliate group name
- 4a-6. Contact person's address, etc.
- 8a. Check box that reads-**Other (specify)**> write in **educational** Group Exemption Number (**GEN**)> **5035**
9. Check box that reads-**Other (specify)**> write in **nonprofit organization-educational**
10. Write in the **date you are filling in the form**
11. Write in **August**
12. Write in **N/A**
13. Write in **"0"**
14. Check the box that reads-**Other (specify)**, write in **educational**
15. Write in **educational services**
16. Check the box **NO**
17. Add **signature** and **date**, include **telephone number** and **fax number** if applicable

APPENDIX V: OAGC AFFILIATE FAQs

Q - Is our group's affiliate status current?

A - Please e-mail the OAGC Vice President for Affiliates for this information.

Q - What forms are required to maintain affiliate status with OAGC?

A - OAGC requires that the following documents be submitted annually to the Vice President for Affiliates:

- Affiliate Bylaws (if updated each year)
- Affiliate Information Form
- Financial Statement
- List of Activities

Q - Do we need to file any additional forms with the IRS?

A - Once you have completed the EIN form and shared it with OAGC, all additional IRS filing is taken care of by OAGC.

Q - Do we need to file any forms with the State/Federal/County/City Governments?

A - No, the forms that your group completes and sends to OAGC are all the documents required for tax and business purposes.

Q - Does our affiliate group hold non-profit 501(c)(3) status with the IRS?

A - Yes, as an affiliate of OAGC, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, your group also carries this non-profit designation. As a non-profit group, you are entitled to receive tax deductible donations and make tax exempt purchases.

Q - What is our EIN# for tax-exempt purchases?

A - Affiliate EIN# may be obtained by following the instructions for completing IRS Form-44 at www.irs.org. See Appendix IV.

Q - How does our affiliate group document donations?

A - Each affiliate group should have a treasurer that documents all cash and material donations on a treasury report. This report should also be used to record expenses. See the attached sample Treasury Report, Appendix VI.

Q - Does our affiliate group need to issue receipts for cash donations?

A - Although receipts for cash donations are not required, many donors will desire and request a receipt for their IRS reporting purposes. A simple receipt book purchased from a local office supply store will suffice.

Q - May affiliate groups solicit contributions/donations via direct mail or face to face interaction?

A - Yes, contributions and donations of cash and materials may be solicited via direct mail, door-to-door inquiry, etc.

Q - May affiliate groups solicit advertising for and to be included in affiliate newsletters?

A - Yes, affiliate groups may solicit and charge for advertising in affiliate newsletters taking care that the mission of the advertiser is not in conflict with the mission of the affiliate and OAGC.

Q - Does OAGC offer any training literature to affiliates for record keeping, etc.?

A - OAGC offers samples of a treasury report, membership report, contribution receipt and financial statement in Appendix VI. Appendices I & II contain a sample affiliate constitution and bylaws. These issues will be reviewed during the annual Affiliate Group Orientation.

Q - Can affiliates reprint articles from the Review and OAGC website in affiliate newsletters and publications?

A - Advocacy Corner from the Review and most articles from the OAGC website may be reprinted in affiliate newsletters and publications without specific permission if credit is given. Please check with each author of specific articles for permission and credit requirements to avoid violating copyright laws.

APPENDIX VI. SAMPLE FORMS

SAMPLE TREASURY REPORT

Affiliate Name
Date of Treasurer's Report
Name of Treasurer

Beginning Balance.....\$ 950.61

Deposits.....+ \$67.00

2004/5 Membership Dues for 3 Members @\$15.00 each \$ 45.00
Super Saturday Art Contributions.....\$ 16.00
Chess Contributions\$ 6.00

Expenditures..... - \$25.00
(Reimbursement to David Jones for Art Super Saturday Materials)..\$25.00

Ending Balance..... \$ 992.61

SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Affiliate Name June 7, 2004 Membership Report Name of Corresponding Secretary

2003/2004 Paid Members as of April 5, 2004..... 29

2003/2004 Paid Members Added – Jane Smith
John Doe
Nancy Jones

OAGC Parent Division Members Added - Lea Pines
Jeff Atkins
Nancy Jones

Professional UnPaid** Members Added – District Gifted Coordinator
School Building Principals
District Superintendent
School Board Members
Regional Government Officials

2003/2004 Paid Members as of June 7, 2004..... 32

2003/2004 Total Members as of June 7, 2004..... 37

**At April business meeting, Affiliate voted to add Unpaid (Non-voting) Professional Members (such as Gifted and Talented staff, the Superintendent and other public school personnel).

SAMPLE RECEIPT

Receipt for Monetary or Material Donation

Date _____

Affiliate Name _____

Received of _____

Amount/Detail _____

Affiliate Officer's Signature and Title

SAMPLE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Affiliate Name
2003/2004 Financial Report
Name of Treasurer

Beginning Balance as of November 14, 2003.....\$ 830.84

Total Deposits to Date..... + \$230.00

Membership dues\$ 200.00

Donations..... 30.00

Total Expenditures to Date..... - \$411.38

Local Club Assistance

Honorarium(s).....\$ 27.00

Postage for newsletter and

Super Saturday notice cards..... 249.00

Picnic Reimbursement..... 23.61

Newsletter Printing..... 22.52

Postage/Mailing Supplies Reimbursement.. 75.25

Bank checks..... 14.00

Ending Balance as of March 5, 2004.....\$ 649.46

Projected Deposits through June 30, 2004..... + \$30.00

Membership/donations.....\$ 30.00

Projected Expenditures through June 30, 2004..... - \$210.02

Super Saturday reminder cards.....\$ 187.50

Newsletter printing..... 22.52

Projected Ending Balance as of June 30, 2004.....\$ 439.44



AFFILIATE INFORMATION

APPENDIX VII. AFFILIATE INFORMATION FORM

GROUP INFORMATION

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

OFFICERS

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

School District: _____ County: _____ Region #: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

School District: _____ County: _____ Region #: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

School District: _____ County: _____ Region #: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

School District: _____ County: _____ Region #: _____



AFFILIATE INFORMATION

MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

Please list at least three (3) members that are OAGC Members.

Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____
Name: _____	School District: _____

(Use additional pages if necessary)

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Number of members: _____ Annual Dues: _____

Our organization, _____ requests affiliation with the Ohio Association for Gifted Children. We certify that two of our officers and an additional member are also members of OAGC. If they were updated during the year, we have submitted a copy of our constitution/bylaws (including an appropriate dissolution clause), a financial statement and this affiliation form to the OAGC Vice President for Affiliate Relations, in accordance with the policy outlined by OAGC. We authorize OAGC to include us in their application for a group tax exemption letter.

Authorized Representative (print name): _____
 Signature: _____ Position: _____
 Date: _____

Please make a copy of this form for your files, attach a copy of your ratified constitution/bylaws, financial statement, and list of activities and return to:

OAGC Vice President for Affiliates

Phone: 614.337.0386

Fax: 614.337.9286

Email: samidon@columbus.rr.com



AFFILIATE INFORMATION

APPENDIX VIII. SEED MONEY REQUEST FORM

GROUP INFORMATION

Name of Organization: _____ Date: _____
Contact Person: _____ Phone: () _____
Fax: () _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____
School District: _____ County: _____ Region #: _____

REQUEST (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER IF NECESSARY)

Need: _____
Strategy to meet this need: _____

People involved: _____

Budget: _____

Dates of project: _____
Report: (one paragraph report due back to OAGC VP for Affiliates when the money is spent)
Please delineate the strengths and weaknesses of your project, so other groups may learn from your experience.

Please submit this form by October 31 of the academic year in which the funds will be used to:
Vice President for Affiliates
OAGC
PO Box 30801
Gahanna, OH 43230
Questions? call the OAGC office at 614-337-0386