

Unofficial but Informed Answers to Gifted Field Questions

- I would like to know a little about the guidelines for the use of the ID supplemental funds that the districts receive.
- What is the best timeline available for the id funding to be finalized and in the districts?

The supplemental ID funds no longer exist as a separate line item. They are included in the full gifted formula on the new PASS form. Presumably the guidelines will be similar to those used in the past and will be developed for FY2012. All funds in the new PASS will begin to flow in the October payment. You will need to break out the ID funds using the gifted calculator at www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget or some other method to budget ID funds.

- The districts are all being allocated funds for a coordinator based on ADM and the ESC's are being funded for gifted personnel as well. For a district that in the past had turned over their coordinator unit to an ESC, this is new money. How long will the ESC's continue to be funded for gifted? At one point we were told there would be a one year transition for funding the ESC's and after that, ESC funding would be eliminated.

The funds are allocated in both FY2010 and FY2011. The intent was that the funds would be transitional as the district funding and services increases. Whether it will be part of the FY2012/FY2013 will be determined in the next budget bill. It is unlikely that these funds will continue, however, beyond this biennium.

- What type of accounting information are the districts going to be asked to submit to prove that they have spent the funds for personnel and professional development in the spirit in which they were allocated?

To be determined in Rules to be in place before FY2011.

- Provide some examples of proper use of enrichment funds.

Great question. OAGC is seeking clarification on that as well. The intent was for these funds to be used for academic enrichment including PSEO, AP, IB, academic competitions, field trips etc. We'll probably learn more as the department drafts additional rules.

- What is the timeline on the development of the gifted performance indicator?
- Is there a timeline for the gifted performance indicator?

Gifted Performance Indicator is to be in place by July, 2010.

- Since the funding for the Summer Honors Institutes and the Martin Essex program is eliminated, are there any plans for another funding source or are those programs eliminated?

Not from the state. SSCO and some of the individual universities have indicated that they will be doing fund-raising to continue the programs.

- Will annual gifted plans be required if there are no changes? ODE will need to answer this question. This will probably be part of the discussion in the Rule making process.

- Help me understand the "state share" and "capped state share" on the spreadsheet that is available.

There are three levels of funding on the PASS form: adequate, state share, and capped state share. The adequate level is the overall level of funding per district under the OEBM. The state share amount is the amount that the state will provide to the district. The local share is the amount that local tax dollars are expected to provide. For this biennium, state share is capped not to exceed a certain level of funding due to budget constraints. The capped state share is the amount of state share to the district multiplied by a gain cap factor developed for each district. Clear as mud, right? ;^)

Our ESC coordinator services 4 districts with a total ADM of about 10,000. Does this mean that those districts need to add Coordinators? Can you still provide the service? Is there a limit of what you can coordinate?

By FY2012, districts will be required to meet the level of coordinators under OEBM. The number of maximum ADM that can be served will be determined in the rule making process.

Coordinators are working with administrators, not students so is the role of the Coordinator changing?

No, the role of the coordinator is still the same. Look to the operating standards for the role of the coordinator.

Has anyone at ODE checked with the licensure department to determine how many Intervention specialists and Coordinators are available? Is there a plan in place to work with Universities to develop programs to train these people?

The lack of trained gifted staff is one of the reasons funding is being phased in. Districts should begin to plan to fully place coordinators by FY2012 and .4 GIS. While there is no formal plan to train people, there are many gifted programs in Ohio, including several online programs.

Can you explain how the new budget works with ESCs providing coordinator service?

For the next two years, it can work as it did previously. However, in FY2012, it is unlikely that ESCs will receive gifted funding. ESCs should take these two years to work with their districts as they plan to implement gifted services to the required level by FY2012. Some ESCs are already making plans to meet with district superintendents to

develop options for the future. This can be an opportunity for ESCs to really show the value and quality of gifted services and staff they can offer to districts in their area.

What type of reports/budgets/ etc. are required from districts now with new budget? Can we get a new coordinator timeline? Ex. Supplemental Funds ID budget is no longer.

The new funding plans will be developed over this biennium and will be in place before FY2012. OAGC will work on a new coordinator timeline as more information is available from ODE.