



**OAGC Governing Board Statement Regarding Amended Substitute  
House Bill 1 as Passed by the Ohio General Assembly**

Released by the OAGC Governing Board on July 14, 2009

The passage of House Bill 1 marks the beginning of new era of funding and education reform. The move from the current funding system to the new Ohio Evidenced Based Model funding system incorporates a gifted funding component into the foundation formula. This is a radical change for gifted funding, which has been funded the same manner for over forty years. OAGC believes that the multi-part gifted education component in HB 1, when fully funded and when accompanied by appropriate accountability measures, will result in a system that could provide adequate levels of funding and services to every Ohio gifted student regardless of where they live. This is the first time in the twenty-five years since the Ohio General Assembly mandated the identification of gifted students, that Ohio policy makers have acknowledged the full cost of appropriately serving gifted students in Ohio. The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) is both pleased and gratified that Governor Strickland and the members of the Ohio General Assembly have shown their support of gifted children in House Bill 1. We are particularly pleased that Ohio's leaders recognized the need for a gifted performance indicator on the district report cards, and we applaud the move from the Ohio Graduation Test to the ACT plus.

As with any major reform, there are bound to be issues in the implementation of the Ohio Evidence Based Model. It will be a challenge for all involved to ensure that these issues are resolved in the next two years in a manner that best serves Ohio's students. The OAGC governing board looks forward to working with state policy makers as we move the education system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This has been a long and difficult budget process, one with many casualties. We are disappointed that funding for the Summer Honors Institute, including the Martin Essex School, was ultimately cut, but we are aware that many very important areas of the areas of the budget were reduced or eliminated, particularly in the health and human service areas. While it is a relief to many of us in the education community that education funding has been a funding priority in this budget, it is important to acknowledge that this was a painful budget overall. We look forward to a time when Ohio's economy recovers and funding to some of these critical areas can be restored.

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