



## **OAGC Statement Regarding Amended Substitute House Bill 1 as Passed by the Ohio Senate**

June 12, 2009

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) is grateful to the members of the Ohio Senate for maintaining gifted funding at essentially a hold harmless level in House Bill 1. Funding under the Ohio Senate maintains the current level of funding for gifted identification and the Summer Honors Institutes, including the Martin Essex program. It appears that the same level of funding is maintained for the current number of gifted units allocated to districts and ESCs. In addition, the Senate included language in the bill that districts must spend the 2009 level of state gifted funding on gifted services.

OAGC is concerned however that the gifted unit funding mechanism has been removed thereby raising questions about how the inherent accountability provisions existent within the gifted unit funding system will be replicated in the Senate plan. Districts currently serving gifted students with state gifted units must serve these students based on the gifted operating standards. There is some question about whether this is still the case under the Senate plan. There are also questions about whether gifted funding continues to be tied to licensed gifted staff under the Senate plan. In addition, it is unclear whether gifted education will be part of the study to recommend a per pupil funding system. OAGC requested clarification of the above issues from the Ohio Senate Majority Caucus staff on June 5, 2009. We will update this statement once clarification is received.

If the Conference Committee on House Bill 1 chooses to maintain the Senate education plan in HB1, OAGC respectfully asks that the following changes be made:

- 1) Reinststate the current gifted unit funding mechanism (as outlined in current law) until such time as the student-centered, evidenced based model is developed for gifted funding. **Revenue Neutral Provision.**
- 2) Maintain the gifted performance indicator language from the House bill. **Revenue Neutral Provision.**
- 3) Include a member of the gifted education community on the Student-Centered, Evidence-Based Advisory Council and ensure that gifted education is included as one of the areas to be examined. **Revenue Neutral Provision.**

For more information, please contact Ann Sheldon, Executive Director of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children at [anngift@aol.com](mailto:anngift@aol.com) or 614-325-1185 (cell phone).