



Summary of Changes to Gifted Funding in Substitute House Bill 1

Gifted unit funding as we have known it in Ohio has been replaced by the gifted education support component that is part of the Ohio Evidence-Based Funding Model (OEBM). There are many questions about how the new funding system will ultimately be implemented. These will be answered as the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) analyzes all areas of the new system and formulates funding and accountability guidelines. While it is often difficult to determine funding in times of transition, the vast majority of districts should be fairly comfortable that the new system will not reduce gifted funding levels for this biennium. Given the new level of gifted funding under the OEBM, continued gifted funding for ESCs and the inclusion of gifted unit funding in transitional aid, few districts should receive less state funding for gifted services in FY2010 and FY2011. Some districts will receive an increase in gifted funding. This biennium should be used as a time to plan for the transition from the old gifted unit funding system to the new OEBM system. The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) will ensure that any information about gifted funding will be communicated with members and others as soon as possible. All information will be posted on the OAGC website at www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget. Included at this site are the following documents and links:

- A link to ODE FY2010 and FY2011 district funding simulations.
- A link to ODE gifted funding FAQs when available.
- A link to the final enacted budget bill.
- A spreadsheet that outlines FY2010 and FY2011 gifted funding components for each district including state share, funding caps, and gifted transitional aid. (This document does not yet include FY2009 ESC gifted funds that support gifted services in some districts.)
- A gifted calculator for districts to calculate district gifted components.
- A link to the August ODE gifted Update.
- An index of gifted provisions in the final, enacted budget bill.

Below, please see the summary of the changes to gifted funding in House Bill 1.

Gifted Funding Changes

- The gifted education support component is built on four factors:
 - Gifted identification factor at \$5 per ADM – fully funded in FY2010
 - 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) – fully funded in FY2010
 - 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 education challenge factor (ECF). This formula funds approximately 640 GIS in FY2010 and 960 GIS in FY2011. Each GIS is worth \$8688-\$18757 (depending on the district ECF) per GIS in FY2010 and \$8827 to \$19057 in FY2011.
 - Professional development funds (\$1833) for gifted intervention specialists phased in along with the GIS levels. The phased-in amount for gifted intervention specialists per organizational unit is \$366.60 in FY10 and \$549.90 in FY11.
- A separate amount of funding is available for Educational Service Center (ESC) gifted units at \$8.1 million. This funding is likely to be allocated in a similar fashion as FY2009 although there are no longer gifted units.
- 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.
- Gifted funds will be accounted for separately for each of the expenditures on gifted identification, gifted coordinators, gifted intervention specialists, and gifted intervention specialist professional development. All districts must comply with the rules for this provision by July 1, 2011.
- The majority of funds will go for gifted staffing and services defined under the gifted operating standards with 15% of the GIS funding for 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 either directly or through ESCs may spend no less than the amount they are currently receiving through unit funding. There is no waiver for this provision.
- ESCs must also spend the same amount of FY2009 gifted unit funding on gifted services. There is no waiver for this provision.
- Districts that did not receive gifted unit funding either directly or through an ESC may get a waiver for this biennium and possibly an additional year.
- Gifted funding is to be studied by the funding council – although there is no gifted representation on the funding council.
- Funding for Summer Honors Institutes, including the Martin Essex program, is eliminated.
- Enrichment funds are not to be used for gifted services.
- A gifted performance indicator will be developed by the State Superintendent and approved by the State Board of Education.

Other Areas in House Bill 1 that Affect Gifted Children

- Districts may waive the 8th grade U.S. history requirement.
- High school credit for students below 9th grade is clarified.
- 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 except for excellent rated districts.
- A video distance learning project is funded to develop online Advanced Placement (AP) coursework.
- The Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) will be replaced by a college readiness examination, which will in all likelihood be the ACT. In addition, end of course examinations will be developed.
- The military compact includes provisions for gifted students.

Initial Comments and Concerns

- 1) The new gifted funding mechanism will support gifted operating standards when fully implemented.
- 2) The old gifted unit funding system did not apply state share to the gifted components. The new system of gifted funding does apply state share to gifted funding components.
- 3) Accountability issues to be clarified:
 - a. A phased-in mandate needs to mirror phased-in funding levels for the protection of both students and districts.
 - b. Gifted should be one of the Core Academic Strategies that are required of all districts including those rated as excellent.
 - c. Proof of qualified gifted coordinator services should be required before gifted intervention specialist funds flow as is required in the current funding system.
 - d. Coordinator and GIS services need to be limited to a maximum ADM level.
- 4) The enrichment language needs to be clarified 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 general education funding “experts” have little knowledge of this area. A sub-committee to explore gifted funding should include multiple members from the gifted community.
- 6) Transition to the new system will require legislative will to follow through on subsequent years of funding and services.
- 7) In previous versions of HB1, community schools were provided gifted funding. This funding was not included in the final bill. Community schools providing gifted services should be allowed to access gifted funding.
- 8) Need to have an interim plan for end of course exams using currently available assessments (e.g. AP, ACT end of course etc.). End of course exams should be renamed course mastery exams.