



June 15, 2009

OAGC Recommendations on Conflicting Gifted Provisions in House Bill 1

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) greatly appreciates the recent efforts of both the Ohio House and Senate as they have shown their support of gifted children in Ohio. Despite cross chamber support, the gifted funding provisions in each version of House Bill 1 are very different. Based on our evaluation of each bill, OAGC recommends the Conference Committee accept the following versions of the conflicting provisions in House Bill 1 as outlined in the LSC Comparison Document dated June 4, 2009.

EDU 125, EDU 84 – School Funding Formula and Adequacy Amount – *OAGC does not support the Senate version* as the temporary funding formula in the Senate plan severs the tie inherent accountability of the current gifted unit funding mechanism. If gifted units are eliminated, the accountability provisions of the gifted units are also eliminated, and the Senate plan doesn't address any replacement for those accountability provisions. This could further destabilize gifted services at a time when gifted education has faced cuts across Ohio. *If the Conference Committee decides to implement the Senate Plan on education, OAGC strongly recommends that the current gifted unit funding mechanism be substituted for this language.* This is a revenue neutral request that would benefit gifted children, staff, and districts.

EDU 185, EDU 84 – Gifted Pupil Program – If the Ohio Evidence Based Model (OEBM) is rejected, OAGC recommends that gifted funding goes back to current law as outlined in HB 119 covering gifted units, gifted identification funding, and the Summer Honors Institutes. OAGC believes gifted identification funding should be protected as all other areas of the foundation program as these funds flow to all districts.

EDU 126, EDU 132 – Adequacy Amount and Gifted Education and Enrichment Support – *OAGC supports the House version* of the OEBM as providing the most stable source of gifted funding. For the first time, gifted funding would be an integrated part of the funding formula. Gifted funding would be phased-in over a 10 year period and tied to licensed gifted staff, identification, and professional development.

EDU 151, EDU 185 – Community Service Projects – OAGC supports the continued funding of the Summer Honors Institutes, whether it is through the Senate plan in EDU 185 or the House plan in EDU 151.

EDU 119 – Report Card Performance Indicators – *OAGC supports the House version* which requires the State Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the State Superintendent, to establish a performance indicator reflecting the level of service and performance of gifted children. The Senate plan is silent on this issue. OAGC believes this provision should be implemented regardless of the education funding plan adopted.

EDU 140 – Funding Council – *OAGC supports the House version* which includes gifted education as an area to be studied. However, OAGC believes that a member of the gifted community should be included on the council.

EDU 23 – School Spending Accountability – *OAGC supports the House version* but does not believe that effective or excellent districts should receive a waiver for spending on the gifted education component. Also, OAGC believes no waivers should be allowed to districts after FY2011.

EDU-10, EDU-128, EDU-132, EDU-140 -- Arts Education Provisions – OAGC supports the House version of the arts provisions which includes arts specialists as part of the Specialists Teacher Factor in the OEBM, provides language to identify best practices, includes fine arts under the OEBM enrichment support component and includes arts in the areas to be studied by the Ohio School Funding Research Advisory Council.

ETC-10, ETC-3 – Development of Distance Learning Opportunities – OAGC supports the House version of the distance learning opportunities, which open up advanced coursework in all Ohio districts.