



Administrators Serving as Coordinators – Facts vs. Fiction

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One of the provisions in House Bill 153 that has had a particularly negative impact on the gifted infrastructure is the inclusion of language allowing *qualified* principals and other administrators to also serve the role of gifted coordinators. The truth is that this provision really doesn't allow anything new to occur in districts. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has had a long-standing policy of allowing *qualified* administrators to also serve as gifted coordinators if the number of direct reports didn't exceed a minimum level. The critical word here is "qualified." And this is where the confusion lies.

Superintendents, treasurers, and other administrators are receiving incorrect information about this provision. Many are under the impression that any administrator regardless of qualifications may serve as a gifted coordinator. This is not true. The law and the rule require that the administrator have proper credentials and must be able to perform the duties of the coordinator. Here is the language of the law and rule of the provision. You may wish to share this with others in your district.

"Sec. 3324.08. Any person employed by a school district and assigned to a school as a principal or any other position may also serve as the district's gifted education coordinator, if qualified to do so pursuant to the rules adopted by the state board of education under this chapter."

The rules governing this provision are as follows:

ADM 3315-51 - 15 (E)

(4) Coordinators of gifted education shall provide the following services for school districts:

- (a) Assist in the identification of gifted students;
- (b) Assist in the placement of gifted students in appropriate educational services and settings;
- (c) Assist school personnel in the design of gifted education services;
- (d) Consult with school personnel regarding gifted education issues in district strategic planning processes and the development of school improvement plans;
- (e) Assist school personnel in the on-going evaluation of the effectiveness of gifted education services, including input from parents of students who are gifted;
- (f) Assist school personnel in ensuring that documents required in this rule regarding gifted identification procedures and written criteria for placement in gifted services are accurate and accessible to parents and other stakeholders;

(g) Assist school personnel in the development, appropriate dissemination, evaluation and revision of written education plans for gifted students as required in paragraph (D) of this rule and

(h) Assist school personnel in ensuring district compliance with accountability requirements described in paragraph (D) of this rule.

(5) Coordinators of gifted education may provide the following services for school districts:

(a) Communicate with parents and others about the characteristics and educational needs of gifted students;

(b) Consult with school personnel about ways to develop and adapt curriculum, materials, and teaching strategies;

(c) Coordinate services such as: mentorship, advanced coursework, special seminars, independent studies, interdisciplinary curricular experiences, internships, career explorations, visual and/or performing arts experiences, distance learning, and supervising and evaluating educational options for gifted students provided in accordance with paragraph (G) of rule 3301-35-06 of the Administrative Code;

(d) Develop curriculum and staff development activities and provide teaching demonstrations to model appropriate teaching practices or classroom management strategies. However, coordinators shall not be assigned to regular scheduled teaching duties; and

(e) Serve as a liaison among students who are gifted, school personnel, parents, community members, colleges and universities, industry, business and cultural institutions and other interested publics.

(6) Coordinators shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) Evidence of at least three years successful teaching experience;

(b) Master's degree;

(c) Ohio administrative specialist license, if the coordinator is to supervise teachers; and

(d) Ohio intervention specialist license for gifted education.

(7) Coordinators of gifted education services shall be provided with appropriate space when conducting conferences with educators, parents, and students.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Sheldon, OAGC Executive Director at anngift@aol.com.