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Ron Amstutz
State Representative

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Committees
Finance and Appropriations
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Ways and Means
Public Utilities
Legislative Service Commission
State Controlling Board

October 4, 2013

Mrs. Debe Terhar
Ohio State Board of Education, President
25 S. Front Street
Mail Stop 703
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear President Terhar,

It has come to my attention that the State Board of Education is revising the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students. Having reviewed the September 5, 2013 draft I have several concerns. The purpose of this letter is to clear up any misunderstanding with regard to the intent of the law as this Rule moves forward.

With respect to funding for gifted students, the General Assembly provided district funds for the identification of gifted students as well as gifted coordinators and gifted intervention specialists. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds will be used by districts specifically for the identification of gifted students and the employment or contracting of gifted coordinators and gifted intervention specialists. In addition to provisions dealing with funding, there are statutory provisions that require the implementation of measures of satisfactory achievement and progress of each student subgroup.

Finally, Ohio statute (3301.07 (B) (2)) requires that revenue and expenditures for each student subgroup be reported at the district level so that taxpayers can be assured that the funds are being expended properly.

The Ohio General Assembly has allocated over \$85 million to districts to support appropriate educational opportunities for gifted students in each year of the biennial budget. We are relying on the State Board of Education to ensure that all administrative rules, procedures and policies demonstrate both accountability and transparency and reflect the legislative intent that gifted students are afforded quality educational opportunities throughout the state.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Amstutz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ron Amstutz
State Representative, District 01

cc. Thomas Gunlock, Vice President
Dr. Richard A. Ross, Superintendent of Public Education