



# Gifted Funding and Policy Update

OAGC Annual  
Fall Conference

October 17, 2010

(updated 10/29/10 to reflect  
new gifted policy developments)



## Major Gifted Education Funding and Policy Initiatives

- Implementation of House Bill 1 and Progress of the Gifted Advisory Council
- Ohio School Funding Advisory Council Recommendations
- State Budget Recommendations
- Board of Regents Proposal
- Impact of Election



## Implementation of House Bill 1 and Progress of the Gifted Advisory Council

- The charge of the council is two-fold:
  - Provide input on the gifted spending rules
  - Provide input on the gifted performance indicator
- A first draft of the spending rule was presented in September.
- Many points of contention between various stakeholder groups.



## Implementation of House Bill 1 and Progress of the Gifted Advisory Council

- Rule will need to go the State Board in early 2010.
- Points of contention include:
  - Minimum levels of spending required
  - Ratios of ADM to Coordinators
  - Local vs. State share
  - Waivers
  - Phased-in Mandate
- BASA, OSBA, and OASBO has issued a memo to the gifted advisory council opposing any spending accountability for the gifted formula. The memo is at [www.oagc.com/?q=rulerevision](http://www.oagc.com/?q=rulerevision) .



## Implementation of House Bill 1 and Progress of the Gifted Advisory Council

- Once the draft spending rule is before the state board, the gifted advisory council will begin work on the performance indicator.
- ODE has issued an RFP for a study on gifted identification/service policies, gifted funding in House Bill 1, and the role of the performance indicator. The study is to be completed by June 30, 2011.
- There is some confusion about the role of the gifted advisory council at ODE.
  - State Superintendent has publicly stated that the council will look at broad policy issues
  - ODE Staff says the role is limited only to the spending rule and performance indicator.



## A New Wrinkle to Consider

- The Federal special education consent decree includes monitoring of gifted units and supplemental identification funds.
  
- OAGC has asked ODE if/how the consent decree will be modified to take into account the funding changes.



## Ohio School Funding Advisory Council Recommendations

- The special needs subcommittee recommendations are out and all of the recommendations have been voted on by the full OSFAC committee.
- For a full list of recommendations with notes on the advisory council deliberation on gifted, please go to [www.oagc.com/?q=schoolfundingcouncil](http://www.oagc.com/?q=schoolfundingcouncil).
- The following recommendations were discussed and voted on in September 30, 2010:
  1. Raising GIS Salary to reflect actual cost. Rejected.
  2. Increasing Gifted Identification to \$15 per ADM and multiplying by ECF (educational challenge factor). Accepted.



# Ohio School Funding Advisory Council Recommendations

Recommendations discussed and voted on October 21, 2010:

1. Adjusting Coordinator factor to reflect actual cost and using a step function to provide more coordinators to smaller districts and fewer to larger districts – The step function was will accepted. The salary adjustment was rejected.
2. Triggered Gifted Guarantee that would require that no district would fall below FY2009. Certain districts would have an additional guarantee to correct an anomaly in transitional aid. Accepted.
3. Gifted Funding should continue to flow to ESCs for the transition period as the new funding model is implemented. Accepted.
4. Transition to a phased-in state-wide mandate. Tabled in lieu of a study to determine the effects of the mandate.





## State Board Budget Recommendations

- The State Board of Education voted on budget recommendations for the FY2012/2013. The board passed a “flat plus” budget, which is highly unlikely to move forward without drastic cuts. ODE will also prepare a flat and 90% budget which will not be reviewed or voted on by the State Board.
- Funding recommendations for gifted are a mixed bag.
- For all budget documents related to gifted funding and the budget, please go to [www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget](http://www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget).



## State Board Budget Recommendations

- Funding Formula at HB1 40% level – funding does not increase significantly over FY2011 as community school ADM was removed from district formula calculation.
- Move to per pupil funding for GIS as a possible suggestion.
- Possibly prioritize gifted categories to serve.
- Allows ODE to divert \$500,000 in ESC funding and requires them to assist JVSDs and community schools who request assistance to screen their students. See amendment at [www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget](http://www.oagc.com/?q=statebudget).
- Provides \$500,000 for ODE gifted staff.



## State Board of Education Budget Recommendations

None of the OAGC recommendations requested were incorporated in the in the budget. These recommendations included:

- Triggered gifted guarantee which ensure all districts would receive FY2009 levels including supplemental ID funds.
- Increasing ID funds to \$15 per ADM – ID funds are down over \$500,000 through the HB1 formula from FY2009. They will be further reduced if community school ADM is pulled from the district count.
- Language to require gifted coordination before GIS funds could flow.
- Modifying coordinator formula to ensure to include minimum and maximum levels of funding in a step like function.
- Phased-in mandate for service.



## State Board of Education Budget Recommendations

- The ESC recommendation was particularly contentious. Many questions remain unanswered about how it will be implemented. The state superintendent claims that these funds are necessary to build a bridge between community schools and traditional schools and to ensure equity of identification.
- An amendment written to help produce a win-win between the state superintendent and the gifted community is almost incomprehensible and was clearly not written by anyone who had any knowledge of gifted funding, identification, or ESC services.
  - It is indicative of a budget process where ODE program staff and stakeholders were excluded from a true conversation.



## Does the State Board Budget Mean Anything?

- To a certain extent it depends on what happens on November 2, 2010. However, the precedent of taking gifted funds from ESCs is a bad one. OAGC is fundamentally opposed to this recommendation.
- The elections are important. It is an excellent time to talk to candidates about their views on gifted education.
- For all budget documents including the language of the gifted amendment approved by the State Board, please go to [www.oagc.com/q?=statebudget](http://www.oagc.com/q?=statebudget).



## Board of Regents Proposal

- Possible requirement for all colleges of education to provide gifted education to pre-service teachers.
- Draft of proposal includes three options.
  1. Stand-alone gifted survey course
  2. Gifted modules developed to be included in other core courses
  3. Dual degree (e.g. early childhood + gifted intervention license)
- OAGC Higher Education developed a draft of the options and is currently waiting for feedback from the Board of Regents.



## Questions?

If you have additional questions, please send them to me at [anngift@aol.com](mailto:anngift@aol.com)