



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Rebecca L. Higgins, President
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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

November 10, 2016

Dear State Board Members,

Please know that OEA supports the current draft of the revised Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Students Who Are Gifted. We believe that the process to improve the standards and address any outstanding issues has been thorough and we welcome an appropriate resolution.

The Board and the Department have been considering revisions of these standards for nearly four years. One of the Board's primary roles is to provide guidance to educators and school districts, and we believe the additional guidance set forth in these revised standards will be appreciated.

The current draft version has sufficient flexibility to allow school districts to choose the methods for identifying and serving gifted students that are most appropriate for their circumstances. Consistent with existing state law, these standards do not require that school districts provide educational services to gifted students.

Most of the current members of the State Board have participated in the process of revising these standards for the last few years. It would make sense to consider and adopt these standards before some of the members leave the Board in January.

OEA stands ready to assist the Board in its continued efforts to improve academic learning standards and provide a quality education for all of Ohio's students.

Sincerely,

Becky Higgins
President

