

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sarah Lee



I cannot believe that we are winding down on the 2021–2022 school year. Changes are on the horizon in education, including for the gifted indicator for the state report card. This is a very welcome change that we in the field of gifted education have been requesting for many years. The call for comments has just closed as I write this article. OAGC executive director Ann Sheldon worked with the state board of education Performance and Impact Committee toward achieving the goal of a measure that meets the report card legislation requirements while also being attainable for all districts, despite pandemic setbacks. The OAGC supported the proposed changes to the performance indicator and requested modifications to the gap-closing measure. Although the request for comments has closed, advocates will continue to be needed to ensure that the committees know that the gifted community is strong and wants what is best for our students. We advocate for our children every day in the classroom, and these laws and policies greatly impact our programs. We must remember to share our experiences to advocate for them when the opportunity is presented. Stakeholders must hear from those who are in the trenches, working in the field, to understand how these changes may or will have an impact on the gifted children of Ohio. They need to hear how these decisions directly affect children's futures. Advocacy can also occur through our parent groups, and their experiences are just as influential to stakeholders. We have to remember that we are only as strong as our testimony, so the more people we can get to advocate for our gifted children, the more our stakeholders will listen. As we move toward the closing of the school year, continue to watch for the advocacy alerts from the OAGC for more opportunities to be involved.