

**GIFTED ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
2010 State Advocacy Agenda**

**DEPT. OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
FOUNDATION FORMULA**

Support Legislation (Senate Bill 962) to Add a Weight in Foundation Formula for Gifted Education funding in DESE.

- \$24,870,104 was appropriated for gifted education in FY2006. In FY2007, this amount was rolled into the new foundation formula. Without this line item, there is no State Assisted Gifted Program within DESE, and those funds can be spent on other programs.
- For FY2011, GAM is requesting the legislature to carve out \$30 million in new funds being appropriated to the foundation formula and establish a weight for gifted education.
- This legislation would define “Gifted Education Pupil Count”.
- Gifted Education is being taught in 291 school districts throughout Missouri; teaching 42,407 gifted students.

MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY & MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY

Restore state funding for the budget of the Missouri Scholars Academy and the Missouri Fine Arts Academy in House Bill 2002. Last year, the academies were cut from \$720,000 to \$259,000.

- The Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program at MU for 330 high school juniors who are academically gifted;
- The Fine Arts Academy is a three-week residential program at MSU for 220 rising high school juniors and seniors who are gifted in the arts.

OTHER GIFTED LEGISLATION

Adopt Legislation to Identify and Establish Gifted Programs or Services (House Bill 1295).

- This legislation would require each school district to identify which of the district’s student are academically gifted.
- Rules for identifying gifted students would be developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Each school district would be required to establish special programs or services for students who are identified as academically gifted.
- Gifted Students require programs or services beyond the level of programs ordinarily provided in regular public school programs.
- Each school district shall report annually to DESE regarding the programs or services being provided for gifted students within their district.

PROTECT PENALTY FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

Protect Language in Statute that Penalizes School District for Reducing Gifted Programs by more than 20% per year.

- In order to secure gifted programs that were already established when the new foundation formula was written, a penalty was established in legislation.
- The penalty states: “If a school district experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of more than twenty percent from its 2005-06 gifted program enrollment in any

year governed by this subsection, an amount equal to the product of the percent reduction in the district's gifted program enrollment multiplied by the funds generated by the district's gifted program in the 2005-06 school year shall be subtracted from the district's current year payment amount.”

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