

Gifted Association of Missouri
2005-2010 Strategic Plan

We, the members of the Gifted Association of Missouri, believe an appropriate education is every Missourian's concern.

We also believe that children with unusual potential have unique learning needs. We recognize that Missourians must become aware of these children and their needs at home, at school, and in the community. Therefore, the Gifted Association of Missouri sets as its goals:

- Be a leader for gifted and talented children.
- Empower parents to become informed and active advocates for gifted children.
- Promote adequate funding for the education of gifted and talented children in Missouri.

The Gifted Association of Missouri operates under four purposes. These four purposes guide the actions of the organization and help plan future endeavors.

Purpose 1

To create an awareness among parents, educators, and the general public of the characteristics, needs, and educational requirements of the gifted and talented.

Objectives

- A. Strengthen the GAM image and clarify key messages. Examples include, but are not limited to, the GAMbit, the Annual Conference on Gifted Education, other conferences, and www.mogam.org.
- B. Create both national and state strategic partnerships that enable GAM to reach out to key publics and more broadly communicate important messages related to gifted and talented youth. Examples include, but are not limited to, attendance at the Affiliates' Conference and exhibits or presentations at other state or national conferences, i.e. MSBA, MSCA, etc.
- C. Enhance public recognition and awareness of the diversity and needs of gifted and talented students, the range of strategies that can be used to address the diversity, and the value of high potential students to the future. Examples include, but are not limited to, the GAMbit, district meetings and conferences, newspaper coverage, public broadcasting, and www.mogam.org.
- D. Enhance the research base on the importance of developing giftedness. An example includes, but is not limited to, "A Guide for Developing Gifted Curriculum Documents."
- E. Recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of gifted education. Examples include, but are not limited to, The Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Parent, and Outstanding Friend of Gifted Education Awards.

Purpose 2

To support the development and funding of programs for the gifted and talented.

Objectives

- A. Increase clarity of organizational identity and consistency of key messages used to position GAM in the public policy arena. Examples include, but are not limited to Gifted Education Week, Legislative Day, and employment of a legislative consultant.
- B. Increase awareness among parents and educators of the need for local, state, and federal education advocacy. Examples include, but are not limited to Action Alerts, Board Meetings, and conferences.
- C. Increase policy makers' understanding of the issues affecting gifted and talented youth and increase recognition of the voice of GAM on behalf of gifted and talented youth. Examples include, but are not limited to, the GAMbit, local legislator visits, and employment of a legislative consultant.
- D. Promote federal support for research development, personnel development, and guaranteed student services. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Affiliates' Conference and the GAMbit.
- E. Encourage GAM collaboration with other state associations and the Missouri State Department of Education to increase the level of state and local support for gifted education programs. An example includes, but is not limited to, presentations for the Missouri State Department of Education.

Purpose 3

To share and disseminate information about existing local, state, and national educational programs for the gifted and talented.

Objectives

- A. Emphasize continuing professional development. Examples include, but are not limited to, New Teacher Workshop, symposiums, District Conferences, State Conference, and university course offerings.
- B. Inform educators of the gifted and talented about the importance of individual differences, differentiation, and other strategies. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Annual Conference on Gifted Education and the GAM Library.
- C. Provide general education teachers and administrators with knowledge about the existence and needs of gifted and talented students. Examples include, but are not limited to, the conferences, workshops, university course offerings, and district meetings.
- D. Increase GAM's capacity to deliver information and instructional strategies in multiple formats. Examples include, but are not limited to, the GAMbit, the Show Me Gifted Education in Missouri Power Point, and www.mogam.org.

- E. Increase membership in GAM. An example includes, but is not limited to, an annual membership drive.
- F. Support statewide programs for gifted and talented youth. Examples include, but are not limited to, Missouri Scholars Academy and Missouri Fine Arts Academy.

Purpose 4

To encourage research relating to the identification and education of gifted and talented children and to assist in the dissemination of the information obtained to educators and the public.

Objectives

- A. Conduct GAM initiated research. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Curriculum Task Force and the Program Evaluation Task Force.
- B. Disseminate current research in the field of gifted education. Examples include, but are not limited to, the GAM Library and the GAMbit.
- C. Support research. Examples include, but are not limited to, scholarships and task forces.