

Kentucky Association for Gifted Education

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2021 Legislative Priorities

Fund Gifted and Talented Education to \$10 Million.

Kentucky's gifted and talented students are an important natural resource for Kentucky. They have unique learning needs that must be nurtured and not neglected.

Why \$10 Million?

- ▶ The state's allocation for Gifted and Talented Education has been flat for 30 years.
 - \$5,997,000 (1990-1991) to \$6,208,400 (2020-2021)
- ▶ When calculated for inflation the allocation's spending power has not kept up.
 - \$5,997,000 (1990-1991) when calculated for inflation becomes \$11,844,440 in 2020.
- ▶ There were 96,290 Primary Talent Pool and Formally Identified Gifted Students in the 2019-2020 School Year.
- ▶ Allocations to districts range from \$9,538 to \$146,632. Allocations are based on total student population.
- ▶ The state spends approximately **\$64 per gifted student**, but the actual amount per student varies from district to district depending on total student population and number of students receiving gifted services. Some districts can add more dollars for gifted services than others.

Why are the increased funds needed?

- To increase appropriate services that meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students, especially as districts strive to include gifted students in KY's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).
- For assessment instruments which provide for universal screening to increase diversity, address equity issues, and support Talent Development.
- To fund the full salaries of teachers endorsed in gifted education so they can have a dedicated role working with gifted students.
- To provide professional development in gifted education pedagogy for all educators so they can provide a significant impact on gifted students who spend most of the day in regular classrooms.
- To ensure that gifted students received appropriate services during NTI so the focus isn't primarily on basic instruction.

Maintain funding for gifted education as a separate item to be identified and used specifically for Gifted and Talented students.

Please support funding at \$10 million for addressing the unique learning needs of gifted children.