

Date

The Honorable (full name)
Room _____
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Senator (or Representative)_____:

As a [PARENT/TEACHER /ADMINISTRATOR] I am concerned about the challenges facing our gifted education programs in Alabama. Gifted education is vital to healthy communities and to our state and nation's future. As a new legislative session begins and legislators meet to develop their policy plans, please keep the following in mind:

1. Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. **These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program.**
2. The surrounding southeastern states provide full or partial funding for their gifted programs. In the state of Alabama gifted education is currently mandated, but only partially funded. Partial funding does not provide the financial support needed to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of our gifted students. Many other academic programs are funded such as preschool programs, programs for students who speak English as their Second Language, and prison education programs.
3. By funding gifted education, Alabama will have the following results:
 - Reduce students leaving public schools for private schools or homeschooling
 - Decrease drop outs – 20% of drop outs are gifted students
 - Raise achievement for gifted students who are underachieving due to unchallenging curriculum in schools
 - Provide for the unique social/emotional needs of gifted students
 - Bring more leadership to Alabama
 - Create new jobs and industries as bright innovative students become leaders in business and entrepreneurs

Funding for gifted education will keep us from squandering a natural resource: **our best minds!**

Please **support full funding** for gifted education so that the academic and social/emotional needs of our gifted students can be met.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)