

# Investing in Gifted Students is an Investment in Alabama



**Alabama Association for Gifted Children  
January 2021**

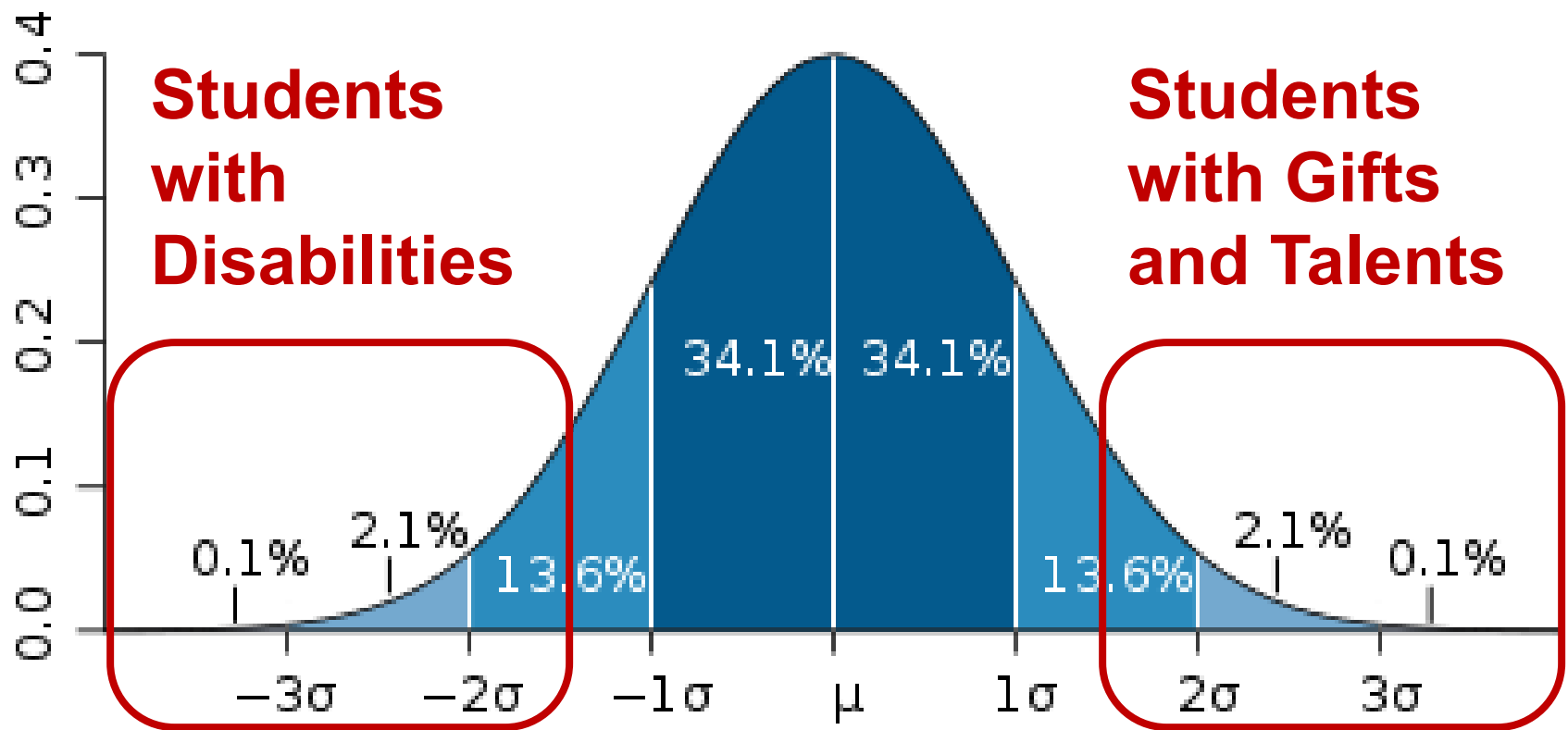


# Alabama Definition of Giftedness

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.**

Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in **all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.**



On the **bell curve...**

The percentage of gifted learners is the **same** as that of students with disabilities: 5-10%

# Federal Legislation

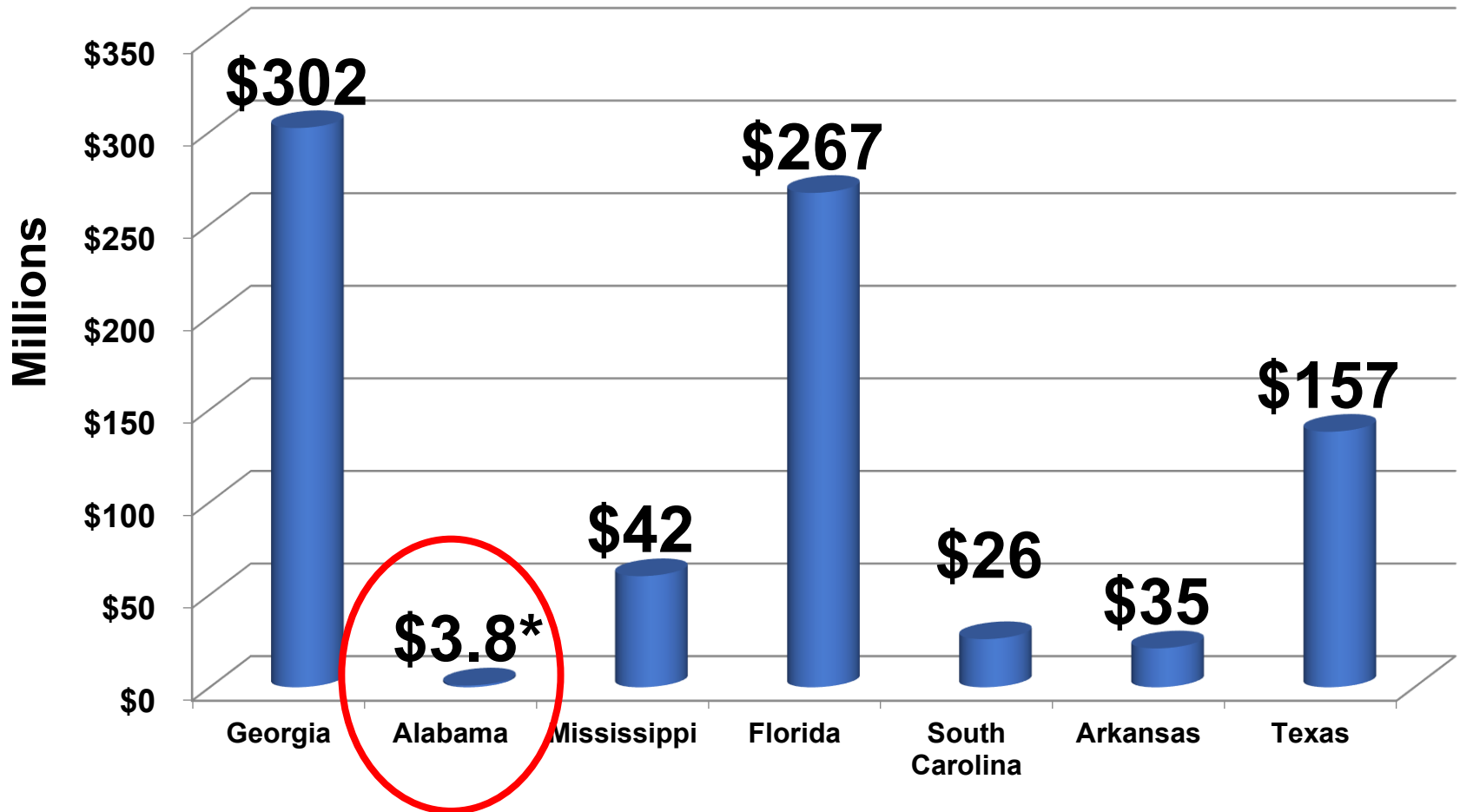
## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.)

Federal legislation mandates special education services for students with disabilities, funding to states to support those students' educational needs.

### However...

- **NO** Federal law mandating gifted education
- **NO** Title funds to states are ear-marked to support education for gifted and advanced learners

# Gifted Funding U.S. Southeastern States



Source: [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

\*2021

# State Education Trust Fund: FY 2021

Program	Amount
Gifted Education	\$3,825,000
Prison Ed	\$13,533,615
ELL	\$14,155,334
Distance Learning	\$20,165,768
AMSTI	\$30,299,318
ARI	\$78,239,601
Pre-K Programs	\$132,215,000

Funding for gifted education teacher units is provided by **local school districts**.

# Consequences of Not Attending to the Needs of our Most Promising Students

- **Achievement growth for gifted = Flat lining**  
Low achieving students are making gains whereas high achievers are slipping backward, especially gifted students in poverty.
- **Underachievement**  
Gifted students are the most underachieving of all learners. As many as 40% of gifted students underachieve, mostly due to boredom.
- **School Dropout**  
20-30% of all high school drop-outs score in the range of giftedness.

# How Full Funding of Gifted Education Will Help Alabama

- **Raise achievement**
- **Decrease** the number of students going to other states, leaving Alabama public schools for private schools, or choosing homeschooling
- **Decrease dropouts** from the gifted population
- **Increase leadership potential** to Alabama
- **Increase job creations** due to expansion of new businesses, entrepreneurial opportunities
- **Enhance innovation and creativity** in Alabama

Full funding will keep us from squandering a natural resource: **Alabama's best minds!**



# Recommendation:

## Full Funding of State Mandate for Gifted Education

- Pre-K--12 certified gifted education specialists
- Universal screening and assessment for gifted identification
- Training: preservice, classroom teachers, and administrators

With over **62,000 students** identified as gifted in Alabama, the number of gifted teacher units needed to serve gifted students in elementary and secondary schools is approximately **1050 teachers**.

**Full Funding for Gifted Education: \$65 million**



# Alabama Association for Gifted Children

*Educating and Advocating*

*Beyond Boundaries for Gifted*

**For more information, contact:**

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