Investing in Gifted Students is an Investment in Alabama

Alabama Association for Gifted Children
January 2021
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Funding (Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>$302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$3.8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>$42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>$267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.nagc.org

*2021
State Education Trust Fund: FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifted Education</td>
<td>$3,825,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison Ed</td>
<td>$13,533,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELL</td>
<td>$14,155,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance Learning</td>
<td>$20,165,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMSTI</td>
<td>$30,299,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARI</td>
<td>$78,239,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Programs</td>
<td>$132,215,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
For more information, contact:

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