

Talking Points GATE Budgets

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- Funding for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) is no longer given to school districts as a categorical fund. Categorical funds have been subsumed into the current Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that districts receive. If districts had a GATE Plan in 2008 and received GATE funds, they still receive those funds as part of the LCFF. However, the district can decide whether to continue their GATE Program or spend the funds on other district needs.
- Gifted students, if not challenged, are likely to lose interest and be turned off by school. They will drop out, disrupt the classroom or under-perform. Once lost, they are unlikely to re-engage in school. Gifted children don't just "take care of themselves."
- Identification of gifted students is critical to providing services needed and cannot be ignored. It is a civil right that these students be given a "free and appropriate public education."
- Professional development in differentiation is good for all teachers, and critical for teachers of the gifted.

We must encourage districts to devote part of their LCFF to continue to serve the needs of gifted children:

1. Ensure districts are appropriately identifying students from all ethnic and economic groups.
2. Ensure student scores for gifted students are making gains similar to those in other populations of students.
3. Ensure data is collected and reported on services for gifted students.
4. Ensure teachers are trained in providing differentiated instruction in every classroom.
5. Ensure services continue to be provided during the school day, not as an afterschool option.
6. Ensure that parents are aware of options for serving gifted students and how to advocate for those services.