

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 201 169

EC 132 846

AUTHOR Grossi, John A., Ed.  
 TITLE Parent/Advocate Groups for the Gifted and Talented.  
 INSTITUTION ERIC Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children, Reston, Va.  
 SPONS AGENCY National Inst. of Education (ED), Washington, D.C.  
 PUB DATE Apr 81  
 CONTRACT 400-76-0119  
 NOTE 55p.  
 AVAILABLE FROM ERIC Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children, The Council for Exceptional Children, 1920 Association Dr., Reston, VA 22091 (\$1.00 for postage and handling, IAP No. 80-5).

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.  
 DESCRIPTORS Child Advocacy; Elementary Secondary Education; \*Gifted; \*Parent Associations; Parent Role; \*Talent

ABSTRACT

The directory lists 123 local or state parent groups for gifted children in 37 states. Groups are listed alphabetically by name under each state. Provided for each listing is name and address; a contact person (name, address, and phone number); an additional contact person; membership number; organization focus; examples of past and present activities; and desired future activities. Also included is a fact sheet on how a parent group can effect legislation for the gifted and talented. (DB)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made \*  
 \* from the original document. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EDUCATION & WELFARE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN  
DUCE D EXACTLY AS RECEIVED  
THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION  
ATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR  
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY  
SENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INST  
EDUCATION POSITION OR POL

PARENT/ADVOCATE GROUP

for

THE GIFTED AND TALENTED

John A. Gross, Ed.

April, 19

A Product of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children  
The Council for Exceptional Children  
1920 Association Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091

ED201169

132846

A publication of the ERI Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children. Publication date: 1981

The Council for Exceptional Children, 520 Association Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091



This publication was prepared with funding from the National Institute of Education, US Department of Education under contract # 400-71-0119. The original work performed herein was done pursuant to a grant from the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, US Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Contractors undertaking such projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their judgment in professional and technical matters. Prior to publication the manuscript was submitted to The Council for Exceptional Children for critical review and determination of professional competence. This publication has met such standards. Points of view, however, do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of either The Council for Exceptional Children, the National Institute of Education, or the Department of Education.

There are many similarities between the education of gifted and talented children and the education of other populations of exceptional children. Today, the most pronounced similarity is advocacy initiated and maintained by parents. A parent is the child's first teacher. As such, parents are often more acutely aware of the social, emotional and educational needs of their children than teachers and other professionals, who begin their involvement when the child reaches school age or is admitted to some type of formal school setting.

One significant difference between the education of gifted and talented children and other exceptional students is that the gifted and talented do not have the support of federal law mandating their appropriate education. Parents often find themselves striving to effect their child's education in a system where there is no desire to improve existing conditions. Long ago, parents realized that unity is a key to getting things accomplished. As a result, we have witnessed parents with individual and specific concerns forming coalitions with other parents to achieve common goals. To date, parents of gifted and talented children, working in organized groups, have been instrumental in furthering their child's education. However, the effort has not yet achieved the quality education for the gifted it is capable of on the national level. There are probably two reasons for this underachievement. First, gifted education is a relatively "new" entity in the special education arena. It has not yet had the time to make the progress and effect the change its counterparts have been successful in accomplishing. Secondly, most efforts undertaken by parent organizations have been isolated by state or local districts. Communication between groups seldom, if ever, occurs.

Gifted and talented child education has been a concern of parents for many years. Enhancing communication and promoting shared activities between individual parents and parent groups can be one means of translating that concern into action. Such communication has the potential of evolving into a network that can provide support, information, and direction to other parents, and facilitate the improved education of gifted and talented children. Toward that end, this compilation of names, addresses, and descriptions of parent groups across the country has been completed.

To compile the list, CEC staff sent a letter to each state consultant for the gifted requesting the names and addresses of state and local parent groups from within their state. Each identified group was asked to complete a one-page information survey on the size, activities and future goals of its organization, as well as the current address, president and president-elect or additional contact.

The results of this survey have yielded information on 123 separate parent groups for the gifted and talented, representing 37 states. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia did not report.

The list would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of Ms. Laeten Bechtel, doctoral candidate with the University of Maryland. Additional thanks must go to Ms. Gloria Grossby, who typed and typed, and typed...

It is our intention to revise this list periodically. Therefore, if there are groups that have not been included in this list, or if modifications need to be made in the current listings, please notify

John A. Grossi  
Education Specialist, Gifted and Talented  
Department of Field Services

Note: The ERIC fact sheet, How a Parent Group Can Effect Legislation for the Gifted and Talented, located at the end of this directory may be freely duplicated and distributed.

Alabama

Alabama Association for Gifted and Talented (AAGT)  
University of South Alabama  
P. O. Box 1914  
Mobile, Alabama 36688

Contact: Kay B. Tibbitts, Ph.D.  
University of South Alabama  
Dept. of Sociology  
Mobile, Alabama 36688  
(205) 476-9300 or (205) 930-5300

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Advanced education

Activities - past and present: Co-sponsor annual conference; sponsor parent/educator survey of facilities; conduct annual membership survey; conduct annual board.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported

---

Alabama Association for Talented and Gifted  
P. O. Box 4842  
Montgomery, Alabama 36116

Contact: R. Gene Wiggins  
2204 Linde Street  
Huntsville, Alabama 35810  
(205) 852-9355  
Until: November, 1981

Additional Contact: Robert Miller  
21 Monte Tice Mill  
Montevallo, Alabama 35115  
(205) 663-0800

Membership: 450

Organization Focus: The advocacy and education of the importance of adequate education for gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Yearly conference on gifted education; co-sponsor of NAGC/TOT Conferences I and II Conferences; produce newsletter to members; area workshops.

Desired Future Activities: More family workshops; leadership workshops for local chapters.

---

Northwest Alabama Association for Talented and Gifted  
P. O. Box 453  
Florence, Alabama 35033

Contact: Sandra A. Peace  
Rt. 8, Box 111  
Florence, Alabama 35033  
(205) 767-1200  
Until: August, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 25

Organization Focus: Promote community and educators awareness of the needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Advocacy of special programs in public schools; after school enrichment programs.

Desired Future Activities: Clearer relationship with established school programs.

---

4

Programs for P.A.C.T. (Program for the Academically and Creatively Talented)  
Post 11th  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99501  
279-0971

Contact: Linda McMurtray

Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Support legislation at state and local levels;  
information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Information not reported

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

#### Arkansas

Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)

Contact: Martha Ann Jones  
2318 Jefferson  
Texarkana, Arkansas 75502

Until: June 30, 1982

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 96

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; stimulation of statewide activities;  
encouraging development and implementation of educational  
programs supporting enactment of legislative programs.

Activities - past and present: Newly formed group.

Desired Future Activities: Assisting in organizing local AGATE affiliates;  
developing position statements.

---

Greater Texarkana Association for the Gifted and Talented (GTACT)  
221 East Short 10th Street  
Texarkana, Arkansas 75502

Contact: Martha Ann Jones  
2318 Jefferson  
Texarkana, Arkansas 75502

Until: June 30, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported.

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Support of local school gifted and talented program; community  
education.

Activities - past and present: Funded special resources for schools' gifted and talented  
inservices; sponsored workshops, seminars, meetings and  
classes; resource library; fund raising for numerous  
activities.

Desired Future Activities: Preschool project.

---

Arizona

Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented

Contact: Maxine Saperstein  
1745 W. Laurie Lane  
Phoenix, Arizona 85021  
(602) 944-8191

Until: November, 1980

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 949

Organization Focus: To create an environment that accepts the gifted and talented as part of the community and to serve their special needs.

Activities - past and present: Annual conference, promote local chapters, form liaisons with other groups such as the Arizona Education Association.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

California

Daly City Friends of Gifted (DCFOG)  
P.O. Box 1124  
Daly City, California 94015

Contact: Linda Telles  
1084 Wildwood Avenue  
Daly City, California 94015

Until: November, 1980

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Provide financial support for local program; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Fund raising; newsletter; encourage community support.

Desired Future Activities: Increasing federal and local financial support.

---

Fresno Parents for the Gifted and Talented  
535 E. San Ramon  
Fresno, California 93710  
(209) 224-2240

Contact: Ivan H. Rowe

Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Better educational opportunities; inclusion of preschool and K-3 children in gifted programs.

Activities - past and present: Increased educational provisions; gifted summer program for preschool - high school.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---



Gifted Children's Association of Orange  
Box 1118  
Garden Grove, California 92642  
(714) 998-9173

Contact: Not reported      Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 650

Organization Focus: Enrichment and support of the gifted child and family.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment classes for children; parent support classes.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Gifted Children's Association of San Fernando Valley, Inc.  
17915 Ventura Blvd., #230  
Encino, California 91316  
(213) 344-0315

Contact: Heather de la Vega      Until: June, 1981  
22715 Marlin Place  
Canoga Park, California 91307  
(213) 346-6575

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 750

Organization Focus: Support of school programs; support of legislation; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment and pilot educational programs; newsletter; participation in local and state advisory groups.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Gifted Children's Association of the Foothills, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4132  
Covina, California 91723  
(213) 339-0886

Contact: Mrs. Karen M. Ezaki      Until: June, 1981  
129 S. Eileen Avenue  
Covina, California 91722

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 375

Organization Focus: Provide extracurricular enrichment classes at local community colleges for gifted students; education of parents.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment classes; line of communication for gifted education legislation in California; educational family field trips.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Gifted Children's Association of West Contra Costa County  
P.O. Box 1148  
El Cerrito, California 94530

Contact: Ann Moore (Mrs. Sheldon W.)      Until: June, 1981  
729 Crestview Drive  
Pinole, California 94564  
(415) 758-4862

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Parent information and communication; improve program; recommend changes in curriculum through Advisory Board.

Activities - past and present: Legislation at state level to continue Gifted programs in schools; parent information.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Orange County Regional Parent Council  
5431 Santa Rita  
Garden Grove, California 92640  
(714) 898-7639

Contact: Laura Kata                      Until: September, 1980  
          9062 Veronica Drive  
          Huntington Beach, California 92646  
          (714) 968-2780

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; advocacy role; part of state  
                          communication network.

Activities - past and present: Developed and supported new gifted legislation;  
  supported local parent activities.

Desired Future Activities: Develop stronger advocacy base in county; promote  
  greater understanding of new legislation among  
  parents; promote growth of quality county and state  
  programs.

---

Parents Association for Gifted and Talented Education

Contact: Doris Disbrow  
          2143 E. Olive Avenue  
          Merced, California 95340  
          (209) 723-4915

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 150

Organization Focus: Organize parents; provide parent support; plan and implement  
                          advocacy activities.

Activities - past and present: Made impact on school grant application and plan  
  for gifted program; educate and encourage parents  
  to advocate for their children.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of current school program; enrichment  
  activities (summer school, after school, field trips).

---

San Francisco Association for Gifted and Talented  
P.O. Box 40820  
San Francisco, California 94140

Contact: Dr. Ronald Cole                 Until: March, 1981  
          181 Yerba Buena Avenue  
          San Francisco, California 94127  
          (415) 661-1881

Additional Contact: Mrs. Alberts  
                      300 Edgehill Way  
                      San Francisco, California 94127  
                      (415) 661-3852

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Support for and advocacy of gifted education in San Francisco  
                          Unified School District.

Activities - past and present: Responsible for adoption of innovative ideas in  
  education of gifted children.

Desired Future Activities: Courses for parents; summer classes for gifted students.



Connecticut

Greenwich Association for Gifted Education  
P.O. Box 1172  
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Contact: Susan Richardson                      Until: May, 1981  
67 Bowman Drive  
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830  
(203) 531-7538

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 45

Organization Focus: Promote effective education for the gifted and talented;  
information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Saturday morning pilot program.

Desired Future Activities: Establishing science center.

---

Milford Association for Gifted Education

Contact: Patricia Murphy                      Until: June, 1981  
1001 Naugatuck Avenue  
Milford, Connecticut 06460  
(203) 878-9880

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: Support for parents.

Activities - past and present: Fund raising for materials; participated in statewide  
gifted fair; help and support parents in understanding  
the gifted program.

Desired Future Activities: Continued contact with parents and students when they leave  
the program; increase public awareness of the needs of  
gifted and talented.

---

Newton Association for the Gifted and Talented

Contact: Mrs. Lynn Bassett                      Until: June, 1981  
Lake Road  
Newton, Connecticut 06470  
(203) 426-0460

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 40

Organization Focus: Further educational opportunities for the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Group recently formed. Will become more active this  
Fall.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of curriculum; advocacy at state and national  
levels for increased legislation.

---

PAGE of East Hartford (Parent Advisors to Gifted Education)  
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ccòb  
259 Naubac Avenue  
East Hartford, Connecticut 06118  
(203) 568-0926

Contact: Mrs. Marie L. Edwards  
89 Anita Drive  
East Hartford, Connecticut 06118  
(203) 568-8075

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 500

Organization Focus: Parent/teacher support group to meet the needs of gifted students,  
both in and out of school.

Activities - past and present: Summer four-week gifted classes (grades 1-8); May Day  
for gifted students and parents; meetings with panel  
discussions.

Desired Future Activities: Network of resource people who would be available for  
students, parents and teachers; Saturday programs.

---

Parents for a Gifted and Talented Program

Contact: Marie Coughlin  
59 White Road  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
(203) 347-8213

Additional Contact: Roberta Pickett  
Ridge Road  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
(203) 347-8213

Membership: 20

Organization Focus: Support of local program for gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Information dissemination; meetings; discussion groups.

Desired Future Activities: More involvement with community; expansion of program.

---

Western Connecticut Association for the Gifted  
10 First Street  
Danbury, Connecticut 06810  
(203) 744-3982

Contact: Sherry Earle Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Steven and Marilyn Borst  
10 Stage Road  
Brookfield Center, Connecticut 06805  
(203) 775-3800

Membership: 70

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; foster peer interaction; parenting.

Activities - past and present: Professionally moderated parent rap sessions; donation  
of books to libraries; mentors and speakers to area  
schools; reprints of articles.

Desired Future Activities: Data coordination on a state and national level; leadership  
conferences.

---

Georgia

Georgia Supporters for the Gifted - Metro Atlanta Chapter

Contact: Mrs. B.D. Strickland                      Until: October, 1980  
2735 Old Concord Road  
Smyrna, Georgia 30080 (404) 436-3736

Additional Contact: Mrs. Penelope Henritge  
2300 Harris Tower  
233 Peachtree St., N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: Support and expand programs for the gifted; information dissemination; secure community resources for the gifted.

Activities - past and present: Meetings with speakers; contacted lawmakers.

Desired Future Activities: Political action; teacher education programs; expand current informational activities.

---

Gwinnett County Supporters of the Gifted  
2408 Highway 324  
Buford, Georgia 30518  
(404) 945-2033

Contact: Mrs. Jeri Tyler                              Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Encourage and support county gifted program at all levels.

Activities - past and present: Field trips; purchase of special equipment for gifted students.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Lanier County Association for the Gifted  
Lakeland, Georgia

Contact: Janice Daugharty                            Until: May, 1981  
Rte. 1  
Stockton, Georgia 31649  
(192) 242-5917

Additional Contact: Nannette Patten  
Rte. 2  
Lakeland, Georgia 31636

Membership: 40

Organization Focus: Fund raising; curriculum improvement and expansion.

Activities - past and present: Field trips; active in curriculum projects.

Desired Future Activities: Community resources to enhance classroom learning.

---

The Association for the Gifted - Richmond County  
c/o Coordinator, Programs for the Gifted  
Curriculum Center  
1740 Walton Way  
Augusta, Georgia 30904  
(404) 733-5575

Contact: Betty Schuster                                 Until: May, 1981  
          3132 Ramsgate Road  
          Augusta, Georgia 30909  
          (404) 738-5295

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Support local gifted program; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Sponsor field trips; financial support; resource people.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Hawaii

Hawaii Association for Intellectually Gifted Children  
P.O. Box 22878  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
(808) 261-4343

Contact: Wanda Porter                                 Until: May, 1981  
          47 Puukani Place  
          Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Additional Contact: Anne Hayes  
                          47-277C Hui Iwa  
                          Kaneole, Hawaii 96744

Membership: 150

Organization Focus: Advocacy; improvement of public school programs; information  
dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Regular meetings with speakers; yearly gifted and talented  
curriculum fair; mini-courses for children; workshops/  
seminars for parents and teachers.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of activities for children; sponsor mentor programs;  
job-shadowing.

---

Mensa Hawaii  
629-I Piikoi Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
(808) 524-1491

Contact: Irvin K. Sasaki

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 275

Organization Focus: Research and identification of gifted and talented; provide for  
social contacts among members.

Activities - past and present: State legislation commemorating "Hawaii Gifted and  
Talented Children's Week"; mini-workshops for students;  
information dissemination for teachers and parents.

Desired Future Activities: Mentor programs.

---

Serteens Club of Hawaii  
94-1240 Kulawai Street  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
(808) 488-3891

Contact: Carolyn Char                      Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: George Carter

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Service; peer association.

Activities - past and present: Monthly program; socials; service project; field trips.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

### Illinois

Illinois Council for the Gifted

Contact: Joan Corbett  
8 Robinhood Court  
Lincolnshire, Illinois 60015  
(312) 945-7270 or (312) 631-9813

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 950

Organization Focus: Increase awareness of the needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment activities; advocacy for local and federal programs for the gifted; information dissemination.

Desired Future Activities: National networking project.

---

### Indiana

Bartholomew Association for Gifted Education

Contact: Aurelia Conway                      Until: September, 1981  
RR#2, Box 21  
Elizabethtown, Indiana 47232  
(812) 579-6510

Additional Contact: Suzzette Holmes  
1715 Franklin Street  
Columbus, Indiana 47201  
(812) 376-6033

Membership: 127

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; promote and support programs.

Activities - past and present: Provided enrichment classes; established resource file; supported state legislation.

Desired Future Activities: Educational programs for parents of gifted children.

---



Central Indiana Association for Gifted Children

Contact: Marcia Allington                      Until: January, 1981  
3110 Lehigh Court  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268  
(317) 291-5779

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 170

Organization Focus: Fostering gifted education at local and state levels; enrichment  
for gifted students; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Educational meetings; summer enrichment programs;  
active in state legislation for financial support  
of gifted and talented.

Desired Future Activities: More enrichment programs and legislation activities.

---

Enrichment, Inc.  
RR#2, Box 414E  
Anderson, Indiana 46011  
(317) 642-2504

Contact: Pat Sites                                      Until: August, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 250

Organization Focus: Provide programs which stimulate highly able children; support  
local programs.

Activities - past and present: Teacher and parent workshops; informational meetings;  
after school enrichment classes.

Desired Future Activities: Workshops; statewide parental group meeting.

---

Unlimited Potential

Contact: Lou Ellen Donnelly  
59320 County Road 3 South  
Elkhart, Indiana 46517  
(219) 293-5234

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 78

Organization Focus: Promote and provide enrichment; information dissemination; support  
programs and legislation.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment classes; field trips; workshops for  
students; inservice workshops for parents and  
educators.

Desired Future Activities: Legislation.

---

Iowa

AGATE Parents ( Ankeny Gifted and Talented Education)

Contact: Stephen Baker  
517 N.E. 9th  
Ankeny, Iowa 50021  
(515) 964-5916

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 97

Organization Focus: Support local gifted and talented program.

Activities - past and present: Field trips; great books program; information sharing.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

-----

BASE

Contact: Gwen Ihle  
200 Linn Street  
Slater, Iowa 50244  
(515) 685-3163

Until: Summer, 1981

Additional Contact: Mary deBaca  
RR  
Huxley, Iowa 50124

Membership: 25

Organization Focus: Promotion and expansion of school program for the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Attended workshop on teaching strategies for gifted and talented; initiated special school program for gifted and talented.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of community awareness; greater involvement in school program.

-----

Cedar Rapids Association for Talented and Gifted  
1121 - 27th Street, Northeast  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402  
(319) 366-5294

Contact: Suzanne Smith

Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 100

Organization Focus: Advance the education and general welfare of talented and gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Speakers for parents and educators of gifted and talented students; family night activities; project exploring activities with community experts for families.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of current activities; increase the political involvement of membership in gifted and talented issues.

-----

Challenge  
Box 208  
Mt. Vernon, Iowa 52314  
(319) 895-8006

Contact: Sandra Harman                                  Until: January, 1981

Additional Contact: Sharon Hill  
610 3rd Ave.; N.  
Mt. Vernon, Iowa 52314  
(319) 895-8644

Membership: 20

Organization Focus: Provide support for parents and teachers; be a visible organization  
in order that our very existence acts as a reminder of needs in the  
school system that have not been acknowledged or met.

Activities - past and present: Survey of administrators concerning status of talented  
and gifted education in our community; support of a  
federal grant proposal; monthly informational meetings.

Desired Future Activities: Support of inservices for teachers; newsletter; working  
directly with talented and gifted students.

---

Denison Area Association for High Potential Children

Contact: Judy Jepsen    Until: May, 1981  
2411 - 1st Avenue N.  
Denison, Iowa 51442  
(712) 263-6512

Additional Contact: Same as above

Membership: 42

Organization Focus: To make education more challenging and more fulfilling  
for our gifted students.

Activities - past and present: Summer Learn-In

Desired Future Activities: Establish a program for gifted children in our  
schools.

---

Des Moines for the Talented and Gifted  
1830 S.W. Porter  
Des Moines, Iowa 50315  
(515) 285-1495

Contact: Irving C. Tiffany                                        Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Bill Nelson  
1538 S.E. Virginia  
Des Moines, Iowa 50320

Membership: 88

Organization Focus: Encourage qualitatively differentiated educational programs to meet  
the unique needs, interests, and abilities of the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Information dissemination; advocacy at local and state  
levels; provide for grants; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Fund raising to support grant programs; expansion of public  
awareness and support for the gifted and talented.

---

Parents and Friends of Talented and Gifted  
895 Kelly Lane  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
(319) 556-4281

Contact: Richard C. Arnold                                  Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 25

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; provide unified direction on formal gifted programs.

Activities - past and present: Field trips; interviews with school administrators; school board presentation.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Siouxlanders for Talented and Gifted Children

Contact: Mrs. Nina Anderson                                  Until: May, 1981  
3233 Lindenwood  
Sioux City, Iowa 51104  
(712) 252-0865

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 104

Organization Focus: Stimulate interest in educational programs to meet needs of gifted and talented students.

Activities - past and present: Monthly meetings for parents; summer learn-ins; field trips; creative writing; Spanish Extension clubs; newsletters; speakers bureau.

Desired Future Activities: Encourage school support for TAG programming and funding.

Sprint Sponsors  
c/o Sprint House  
21st and Prospect  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
(515) 225-2768

Contact: Mrs. Ginger Barry                                  Until: September, 1980  
3725 Greenbranch Drive  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
(515) 225-3063

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: Support local program; legislation for funding; community education; fund raising.

Activities - past and present: Organizational, as group was recently formed.

Desired Future Activities: Recruitment and maintenance of active membership.

---

Tritag

Contact: Cheryl Larche  
1107 North D  
Indianola, Iowa 50125  
(515) 961-4815

Until: June 1, 1981

Additional Contact: Mr. & Mrs. John Calhoun  
800 E. Detroit  
Indianola, Iowa 50125  
(515) 961-4804

Membership: 20

Organization Focus: For people interested in more adequate education for  
gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Pilot program for all students to recognize  
each possibility for identifying himself;  
hear speakers; aid schools; lending library.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Kansas

Blue Valley Association for the Gifted  
P.O. Box 23095  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66223

Contact: Pam Myerson  
(913) 642-7585

Additional Contact: Gary and Connie Hart  
12844 Sagamore  
Leawood, Kansas 66209  
(913) 649-6620

Membership: 66

Organization Focus: Increase community awareness; information dissemination; support  
local school programs.

Activities - past and present: Saturday workshops; community education.

Desired Future Activities: Workshops to educate parents and community as to valid  
needs for gifted and talented programs.

---

Shawnee Mission Association for the Gifted

Contact: Joe Alfred  
5549 Foster  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66202  
(913) 362-1320

Until: April, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Education of parents; development of opportunities for gifted  
children.

Activities - past and present: Development of mentor program; advocacy at local and  
state levels.

Desired Future Activities: College courses for gifted students.

---

Southeast Association for Gifted Education

Contact: Leona R. Cooper    Until: May, 1981  
401 W. Jefferson  
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (316) 232-1232

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 22

Organization Focus: To enhance the development of the gifted child.

Activities - past and present: Telescope and planetarium tour; activities emphasizing child leadership.

Desired Future Activities: Junior Great Books.

---

TAG II - The Topeka Association for the Gifted  
P.O. Box 4011  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Contact: Omneya S. Burdzik    Until: May, 1981  
2700 West 6th  
Topeka, Kansas 66606  
(913) 232-1907

Additional Contact: Liying Lee  
210 Yorkshire Drive  
Topeka, Kansas  
(913) 273-1436

Membership: 67

Organization Focus: To support programs for the gifted; encourage identification and appropriate educational experiences for the gifted.

Activities - past and present: Monthly meetings; courses for parents; courses for gifted students.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Louisiana

Association for Gifted and Talented Students  
1627 Frankfort Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122  
(504) 288-3612 or (504) 282-7528

Contact: Kay Coffey    . Until: April, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 4,200

Organization Focus: Support of funding and programming for gifted and talented students.

Activities - past and present: Conferences for parents and educators; sponsoring summer mini-courses and Saturday programs; newsletters.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Maryland

Gifted Child Committee  
Montgomery County Council of PTAs

Contact: Dr. Maeva Marcus                      Until: June, 1981  
5600 Harwick Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20016  
(301) 320-4219

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 120 schools

Organization Focus: Support of Board of Education policy; education of local school PTAs.

Activities - past and present: Information not reported.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Association for Advancement of Individual Potential, Inc.  
Box 65  
Milton Village, Massachusetts 02187  
(617) 784-5182 or (617) 333-0223

Contact: Clista M.E. Dow                      Until: May, 1981  
Box 446  
18 Paul Revere Rd.  
Sharon, Massachusetts 02067  
(617) 874-2971

Additional Contact: Nina Greenwald  
66 Cheryl Drive  
Sharon, Massachusetts 02067

Membership: 300

Organization Focus: Advocacy at local and state levels; informational services; professional development; services for students.

Activities - past and present: Conferences; informational meetings; awareness via television, radio and press.

Desired Future Activities: Networking with other advocacy groups.

---

Michigan

Bloomfield Hills Association for Gifted and Talented  
P.O. Box 211  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013  
(313) 851-5949

Contact: Susan Ewing and Patience Beer      Until: June, 1981  
6225 Worlington  
Birmingham, Michigan 48010

Additional Contact: Brenda and Charles McDonald  
(313) 855-2093

Membership: 100

Organization Focus: Monitor school program for gifted students; educate parents, teachers and administrators.

Activities - past and present: Representative meets with teacher group on a monthly basis; meetings.

Desired Future Activities: Improving communication among schools in district; communicating with other groups interested in gifted education.

---

Dearborn Association for the Academically Talented  
854 North Gulley Road  
Dearborn, Michigan 48128  
(313) 278-0705

Contact: Patricia Willis Until: September, 1980

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 25

Organization Focus: Advocate gifted education to legislators and public school system;  
encourage development of local school gifted program.

Activities - past and present: Summer classes; educational meetings; work with local  
schools.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of activities with local school program;  
expansion of advocacy activities.

---

East Detroit Council for Talented Students  
24625 Raven  
East Detroit, Michigan 48021  
(313) 774-5132

Contact: Nancy Salafia Until: April, 1981  
24833 Wilmot  
East Detroit, Michigan 48021

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Clearinghouse for information to promote an active interest  
among school administrators and parents.

Activities - past and present: Developed a screening program; started a pilot gifted  
program.

Desired Future Activities: Improvement of curriculum in middle schools.

---

Fenton Association for Gifted Children  
636 Whispering Winds Trail  
Fenton, Michigan 48430

Contact: Jean Walker  
(313) 629-0276

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Create awareness among teachers, administrators and parents  
regarding needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment program; field trips; speakers; assisted  
in formation of other parent groups.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---



Genesee County Association for the Academically Talented  
1401 N. Center Road  
Flint, Michigan 48506  
(313) 742-9641

Contact: Jerome J. Svolbert Until: September, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Create awareness of gifted and creative child and his special needs; parent education; encourage and support local school program.

Activities - past and present: Meetings; provided speakers for other groups.

Desired Future Activities: Exchange information with other groups; start a newsletter.

---

Kent County Association for the Gifted and Talented  
P.O. Box 6201  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506  
(616) 245-1665 or 245-2203

Contact: Katy Lux Until: May, 1981  
927 Iroquois S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Additional Contact: Marva Brummeler  
1010 Griswold S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507  
(616) 452-2007

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Create public awareness of the needs of gifted and talented children; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Yearly county conferences; public meetings; sponsor speakers.

Desired Future Activities: Conference for children.

---

Livonia Association for the Academically Talented  
31800 Balmoral Drive  
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Contact: Helen M. Oppat Until: August 31, 1981  
31800 Balmoral Drive  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
(313) 427-1457

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 65

Organization Focus: Promote proper education for gifted and talented children and adults. To share concerns regarding the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Meetings with legislators to enact legislation for gifted education; liaisons between administrators and community.

Desired Future Activities: Continuing the same.

---



Mona Shores Association for Talented and Gifted

Contact: Joanne F. Cochrane                      Until: Summer, 1980  
3652 McCracken  
Muskegon, Michigan 49441  
(616) 780-3539

Additional Contact: Mrs. Janice Briggs  
2504 Hathaway Court  
Muskegon, Michigan 49441  
(616) 680-2244

Membership: 7

Organization Focus: Advocacy for more and better gifted and talented programs in schools.

Activities - past and present: Information not reported.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Monroe County Council for High Potential Youth

Contact: Barbara Pursley    Until: May 1981  
5327 Amy Drive  
Monroe, Michigan 48161  
(313) 242-7894

Additional Contact: Carmen Golden

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: To develop and emphasize gifted education in Monroe County.

Activities: Past and present. Summer Enrichment Programs, Super Saturdays, Kollege for Kids, Summer Field Trips.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Plymouth Canton Association for the Academically Talented  
47237 Beechcrest Street  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
(313) 455-0794

Contact: Louise Townley    Until: June, 1980

Additional Contact: Marjorie Croll  
39591 Birchwood  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
(313) 453-1038

Membership: 55

Organization Focus: Local advocacy of special programs for gifted students in public schools; teacher training in gifted education.

Activities - past and present: Involvement in local TAG Advisory Committee and school board; monthly information meetings for parents, teachers and administrators.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Royal Oak Association for the Academically Talented  
3013 Vinsetta Blvd.  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073  
(313) 583-1375

Contact: George and Mary REtelle            Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 100

Organization Focus: Promote education for the gifted.

Activities - past and present: Monthly meetings; hobby fairs, gaming sessions;  
presentations to board of education regarding  
current school program.

Desired Future Activities: Form study groups to help parents understand the educational  
programs for the gifted.

---

Warren Consolidated Association for the Academically Talented  
2098 Hempstead  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
(313) 689-3350

Contact: Terry Merrick                        Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 115

Organization Focus: Inform and unify parents of gifted and talented children in our  
district.

Activities - past and present: Conducted needs assessment survey; supported active  
gifted summer program including academic and talent  
evaluations.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Warren Woods Association for the Academically Talented and Gifted  
27480 Shackett  
Warren, Michigan 48093  
(313) 754-7542

Contact: Mrs. Mary Ann Gray

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 28

Organization Focus: Create an awareness of the special needs of the gifted and talented;  
encourage new programs; work for favorable legislation for more  
funding at the state and federal levels.

Activities - past and present: Speakers; K-1 screening; advisory committee for AT & G.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of advocacy activities at state and federal levels.

---



Missouri

Columbia Support Group for the Gifted and Talented  
305 Manor Drive  
Columbia, Missouri 65201  
(314) 445-6305

Contact: Dr. E. K. Chippendale

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 10

Organization Focus: Parent awareness and education; support for newly established local gifted and talented program.

Activities - past and present: Newly organized. Currently involved in writing a charter and membership campaign.

Desired Future Activities: Expanding present program; helping parents work with their child at home.

---

Gifted Association of Missouri  
Drury College  
Springfield, Missouri 65802  
(417) 865-8731 x260 or 271

Contact: Dr. Dee Wyckoff                                  Until: 1982  
4807 S. Glenn  
Springfield, Missouri 65807  
(417) 882-2346

Additional Contact: Mrs. DeDe Smith  
2237 E. Rosebrier  
Springfield, Missouri 65807  
(417) 881-0382

Membership: 3,000

Organization Focus: Support legislation for funding gifted programs.

Activities - past and present: Working on Governors' Honors Program for gifted secondary school students.

Desired Future Activities: Further identification in area of disadvantaged gifted, minority gifted, and handicapped gifted.

---

Kansas City Area Association for the Gifted and Talented Inc.  
210 W. 66th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64113  
(816) 444-9151

Contact: Sharon M. Ward                                  Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Linda Swain  
2539 W. 90th St.  
Leawood, Kansas 66206  
(913) 341-6414

Membership: 400

Organization Focus: Advocacy for state mandate; parent support group; public education and awareness of gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Summer classes; Saturday seminars.

Desired Future Activities: State mandate in Missouri.

---







New Jersey

Challenges, Inc.  
32 Lake Shore Drive  
Rockaway, New Jersey 07866  
(201) 625-0276 or 625-1816

Contact: Betsy Blume

Additional Contact: Mrs. Terry Duvel  
Pleasant Hill Road  
R.D. Box 149C  
Flanders, New Jersey 07836  
(201) 584-3239

Membership: 100+

Organization Focus: Student workshops; counseling program; parent and teacher workshops.

Activities - past and present: Saturday morning programs.

Desired Future Activities: Computer building and programming by students; theatre arts; students' mentorships.

---

GATEways (Gifted and Talented Education Ways)  
P.O. Box 280  
Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927  
(201) 335-8720

Contact: Cynthia Kestenbaum                      Until: July, 1982  
25 Ferndale Drive  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 148

Organization Focus: Develop an awareness of special programming needs of the gifted and talented of Northwest New Jersey; provide channels of communication between parents and educators; organize a community information center for materials pertaining to the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Saturday workshop for gifted and talented children; workshops for parents.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Gifted Child Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 120  
Oakland, New Jersey 07436  
(201) 337-7058

Contact: Dr. Donald Malocco                      Until: January, 1981  
Board of Education  
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

Additional Contact: Gina Ginsberg-Riggs  
P.O. Box 120  
Oakland, New Jersey 07436  
(201) 337-7058

Membership: 3,0-0

Organization Focus: Provide educational enrichment; assist parents; train educators; seek public awareness.

Activities - past and present: Saturday workshops; educator workshops; information dissemination.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of advocacy role.

---

South Jersey Association for the Gifted  
207 Delsea Drive (Rt. 47)  
RD #4, Box 209  
Sewell, New Jersey 08080  
(609) 228-6000

Contact: Robert Andrews                      Until: June, 1981  
3243 Tenby Chase Apts.  
Delran, New Jersey 08075  
(609) 461-7614

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 355

Organization Focus: Improve quality of gifted education; support state and federal  
legislation for funding for more gifted and talented programs.

Activities - past and present: Conferences for parents; Saturday workshops for  
children; individual and group consulting with  
parents of gifted students.

Desired Future Activities: Turnkey training of parents in all areas of gifted and  
talented programming; networking and advocacy building.

---

QUEST

Contact: Jayne M. McKenny                      Until: January 1981  
6 LaMalfa Road  
Randolph, New Jersey 01869  
(201) 361-3354

Additional Contact: Joyce Shefel

Membership: 90

Organization Focus: To serve as a support group for parents and friends of the  
gifted and talented, and to advocate for the gifted and talented  
in the local area as well as the state as a whole.

Activities: Attend workshops and state convocations, consult with state and regional  
coordinators of the gifted and talented.

Desired Future Activities: To continue to provide the support to parents who are dealing  
with the problems and successes of having a gifted child.

---

New Mexico

Albuquerque Association for Gifted and Talented Students  
8610 La Sala del Norte, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111  
(505) 294-1688

Contact: Mrs. Pat Rubenstein                      Until: July, 1981  
8610 La Sala del Norte, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111  
(505) 294-1688

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 150

Organization Focus: To encourage the identification of and fully develop gifted  
and talented students; work with schools toward enrichment  
of students; promote and support legislation and funding.

Activities - past and present: Supported state and national legislation for gifted  
and talented; developed proposal for education of  
gifted/talented in Albuquerque public schools;  
speakers; newaletter; resource directory for teachers  
of the gifted; bibliographies of publications relating  
to the gifted and talented.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported

---

Carlsbad Association for Development of Gifted and Talented  
Carlsbad Municipal Schools  
408 N. Canyon Street  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220  
(505) 887-2821

Contact: Linda Aycock

Additional Contact: Dr. William Pike  
Rt. 1, Box 184-C  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Encourage identification by the schools of all gifted and talented students; develop Carlsbad's program for gifted and talented students; educate parents; promote and support legislation and funding.

Activities - past and present: Information not reported.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Society for Development of Gifted and Talented  
1301 Sunset S.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105  
(505) 877-2001

Contact: Jean Rodgers                                 Until: September, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 250

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; guidance for parents; enrichment workshops for children.

Activities - past and present: Meetings and workshops for parents; workshops for children.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of workshops; special schools for gifted and talented; more political involvement on local and national levels.

---

#### New York

AGATE (Advocacy for Gifted and Talented Education)  
Dingman Point  
Alexandria Bay, New York 13607  
(315) 482-9776

Contact: Dr. Virginia Ehrlich                     Until: September, 1981  
23 Wilder Road  
Suffern, New York 10901  
(914) 354-7497

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 289

Organization Focus: Promoting education of the gifted in New York State; promoting local organizations; assisting schools, parent groups and teachers.

Activities - past and present: Conducted three statewide conferences and nine regional workshops; newsletters; consulted with state legislature in forming proposed legislation for the gifted in New York State.

Desired Future Activities: Developing a closer relationship with CEC and other TAG affiliates.

---

Genesee Valley Gifted Education Team  
1100 Meigs Street  
Rochester, New York  
(716) 271-2720

Contact: Mrs. Jane G. Lipman

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 125

Organization Focus: To promote the cause of education for gifted and talented  
of the Genesee Valley area.

Activities - past and present: Serves as liaison group to local school districts  
seeking differentiated programs for gifted children;  
speakers and consultants.

Desired Future Activities: To become affiliated with "Agate" at the state level.  
Strive for legislation for proper funding for gifted  
students; provide conferences with nationally known  
advocates of gifted education; provide speakers bureau;  
newsletter; educate community to special needs of the  
gifted.

---

Lakeland Association for the Gifted and Talented  
P. O. Box 394  
Shrub Oak, New York 10588

Contacts: Sharon Edelstein and Suzanne Sadofsky Until: May, 1982  
P. O. Box 394  
Shrub Oak, New York 10588

Additional Contact: Information not reported

Membership: 250

Organization Focus: To work for a program within local district which adequately  
meets the needs of gifted students.

Activities - past and present: Operate independent programs for parents and  
students including guest speakers, rap sessions  
with psychologists and trips of interest to both.  
Work closely with school board to expand and  
improve the gifted program.

Desired Future Activities: Inservice training for regular classroom teachers;  
advocate legislation for gifted on state level.

---

New York State Association for the Gifted and Talented  
P.O. Box 301  
Valley Stream, New York 11580

Contact: Bernie Ellie Until: 1983  
628 Golf Drive  
N. Woodmere, New York 11581  
(516) 791-3732

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Establish public and private school programs for gifted children;  
establish advocacy groups.

Activities - past and present: Lobbying for funds; meetings and workshops on gifted  
education.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

New York State Council of School District Administrators  
111 Washington Avenue, Suite 404  
Albany, New York 12210  
(518) 449-1063

Contact: Dr. John P. Connolly  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ramapo Central School  
Mountain Avenue  
Hillburn, New York 10931  
(914) 357-7783

Until: October, 1981

Additional Contact: Dr. Fritz Hess  
Superintendent of Schools  
East Syracuse-Minoa Central School  
Fremont Road  
East Syracuse, New York 13057  
(315) 656-7201

Membership: 650

Organization Focus: Promotion of public education

Activities - past and present: Part of consortium of Council of Gifted & Talented.

Desired Future Activities: Any of above.

---

People Advocating Gifted Education - PAGE  
P. O. Box 324  
Manlius, New York 13104  
(315) 682-7726

Contact: Patricia Davies  
8084 E. Seneca Turnpike  
Manlius, New York 13104  
(315) 682-7726

Until: May 31, 1981

Additional Contact: Robert O. Brown  
101 Gifford Avenue  
Syracuse, New York 13214  
(315) 446-1677 H (315) 425-4595 O

Membership: 60

Organization Focus: Information on local programs; support of local programs;  
information on legislation; liaison between districts and  
parents.

Activities - past and present: Summer programs; field trips.

Desired Future Activities: Coordinating a workshop for parents with community  
college, also a summer program.

---

Queens Association for the Education of Exceptionally Gifted Children, Inc.

Contact: Margy B. McCreary  
111-30 198 St.  
Hollis, New York 11412  
(212) 465-0950

Until: June 1982

Additional Contact: Aileen Bond

Membership: 350

Organization Focus: Educational Enrichment

Activities - past and present: Information not reported.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Rockland County National Association for Gifted Children  
76 Hall Avenue  
New City, New York 10956  
(914) 634-6246

Contact: Jill S. Pryor  
76 Hall Avenue  
New City, New York 10956  
(914) 638-0118

Additional Contact: Information not reported.

Membership: 200 +

Organization Focus: Advocacy of differentiated gifted/talented education in  
public and private schools.

Activities - past and present: Educating the public through prominent speakers  
in education and government; parent education;  
activities for children; service on school  
district committees; supported legislation.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Sirius  
28 Summit Terrace  
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522  
(914) 693-3081

Contact: Rima Laibow

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: New organization

Organization Focus: Develop a functioning network of contact, support, resources,  
and ideas for parents of gifted students.

Activities - past and present: Currently developing a child network, a family network  
and a research program; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Society for Gifted and Talented Children  
Box 589  
Merrick, New York 11566

Contact: Betty Bogart                      Until: October, 1981  
80-22 Little Neck Parkway  
Floral Park, New York 11004  
(212) 347-7706

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 270

Organization Focus: Advocate for education and welfare of gifted and talented children.

Activities - past and present: Teacher/parent sharing activities; workshops; conferences; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Legislation for education of the gifted; resource materials for parents and educators.

---

North Carolina

Parents for the Advancement of Gifted Education (PAGE) - Wake County Chapter  
Meredith College  
Box E-137  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Contact: Patricia S. Ball                      Until: June, 1981  
1205 Buckingham Road  
Garner, North Carolina 27529  
(919) 779-1638

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 200

Organization Focus: Promote education for gifted in public schools; educate parents, teachers and elected officials as to the needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Sponsors "Saturday Morning Program"; maintains communication with school system; information dissemination.

Desired Future Activities: More direct encouragement to gifted students.

---

North Dakota

Grand Forks Association for Gifted Education  
1720 Drees Drive  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201  
(701) 772-2690

Contact: Mary Larson                              Until: January, 1981

Additional Contact: Linda Schobert  
2250 Springbrook Court  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201  
(701) 775-4989

Membership: 40

Organization Focus: Support local school program; education of parents and teachers; public awareness.

Activities - past and present: Computer mini-course; initiated action with school board to provide resource room and teacher for gifted and talented students.

Desired Future Activities: Workshops and conferences for parents and youths; science projects; foreign language program.

---

Williston North Dakota Parents Support System

Contact: Steve and Sandy Hughes  
1214 Hillcourt  
Williston, North Dakota 58801  
(701) 572-6541

Additional Contact: Jerry and Dawn Rustad  
(701) 572-2065

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Advocacy group with emphasis on supporting and expanding local programs.

Activities - past and present: Lobbying for gifted education at state legislation.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Ohio

Central Ohio Association for Gifted Children  
5433 Sharon Park Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
(614) 888-8860

Contact: Barbara Pulfer Until: July, 1982  
160 Walcreek Drive  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
(614) 475-4169

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 125

Organization Focus: Parent education; public awareness of needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Legislative work; monthly parent meetings; family activities; participation in OAGC workshops.

Desired Future Activities: More parent involvement.

---

GATEway Association  
c/o Anita Kirshen  
Baker Middle School  
400 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Marion, Ohio 43302  
(614) 387-3300, ext. 231

Contact: Mrs. Judith Schmidt Until: June, 1981  
(614) 387-9318

Additional Contact: Tom Smart  
(614) 387-3629

Membership: 80

Organization Focus: Support group for local gifted program; promote gifted education in community.

Activities - past and present: Newly formed group.

Desired Future Activities: Saturday and summer programs; mentorships.

---



Lorain County Association for Gifted and Talented  
42571 Grandview Drive  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
(216) 324-6168

Contact: Patricia Dugan                      Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 15

Organization Focus: Promote gifted classes in public schools.

Activities - past and present: Provided impetus for "College for Kids" at local community college; active in legislation for funding of gifted and talented programs.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Mahoning County Association for Talented and Gifted Children  
3755 Barber Drive  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
(216) 533-7573

Contact: Paulette Pannozzo

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 24

Organization Focus: Information dissemination; advisory group for local school district.

Activities - past and present: After school enrichment classes.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of enrichment activities.

---

Pipeline for Gifted and Talented  
151 Claremont Drive  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212  
(216) 225-6239

Contact: Maxine Villwock                      Until: March, 1981

Additional Contact: Ken Jenkins  
1652 Devonshire Drive  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212  
(216) 273-2509

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Active in local school program; talent show; mini-courses for students; speakers for parent meetings; newsletter; field trips; family outings; grants for teachers; advocacy on state and federal levels.

Desired Future Activities: Scholarships for gifted students.

---

Strongsville Association for Gifted and Talented

Contact: Mr. David Kneisley            Until: June, 1981  
          20278 Carlyle Drive  
          Strongsville, Ohio 44136    (216) 238-6711

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Coordinate a community enrichment program called SAGT Super Series; support local gifted programs; educate community to special needs and problems of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: SACT Super Series; regular meetings with professionals in all fields; compiling book lists and community cultural interest sheets; fund raising; field trips; sent teachers to workshops; letter writing campaigns.

Desired Future Activities: More active in present activities; political involvement at state and national levels.

---

Willoughby-Eastlake Association for the Gifted and Talented

Contact: Mrs. Claudia Pawlak            Until: October, 1980  
          4917 Shankland  
          Willoughby, Ohio 44094  
          (216) 942-4748

Additional Contact: Robert Kerber  
                          36117 Hillcrest Drive  
                          Eastlake, Ohio 44094  
                          (216) 946-3898

Membership: 50-75

Organization Focus: Advocate for gifted education; serve as resource group.

Activities - past and present: Field trips; wine and cheese party to benefit Systems Program.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Rhode Island

National Foundation for Gifted and Creative Children  
395 Diamond Hill Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886  
(401) 737-0180

Contact: John E. Friedel

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 1,000

Organization Focus: Counseling of parents and children; providing alternate educational environments; testing; active in courts on behalf of gifted and talented students.

Activities - past and present: Information dissemination; newsletter; speakers; lectures.

Desired Future Activities: Publication of data accumulated over past 17 years, such as case histories and community involvement.

---

South Dakota

Association for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Contact: Kathleen A. Johnson                      Until: December, 1980  
1707 South Summit Avenue  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105  
(605) 334-9752

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Provide resources and mutual support to parents of gifted children; encourage development of educational opportunities for gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Active in securing local school program for gifted elementary students.

Desired Future Activities: Newsletter; expansion of support to parents.

---

Task Force for Gifted, Talented and Intellectual Children  
1 South Broadway  
Watertown, South Dakota 57201  
(605) 886-5814

Contact: Charlene Cage  
RR3  
Watertown, South Dakota 57201  
(605) 886-8983

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 6

Organization Focus: Support school board in developing and implementing a challenging program through the schools.

Activities - past and present: Active in pursuing testing for gifted students.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Tennessee

Association for Talented and and Gifted  
3942 Woodlawn Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee  
(615) 32204962 or 298-3010

Contact: Marilyn Doyle

Additional Contact: Mary Vance  
6328 Laurelwood Drive  
Brentwood, Tennessee  
(615) 373-4170

Membership: 300+

Organization Focus: Understanding the needs of gifted; parent support; information sharing; lobbying.

Activities - past and present: Lobbying on state level; attempts at starting summer program; meetings with speakers on various topics of interest.

Desired Future Activities: Work to improve school programs; top-notch summer program.

---

Texas

Bay Area Association for Gifted and Talented  
18101 Walnut  
Webster, Texas 77598  
(713) 332-8213

Contact: Dr. Norma Button                      Until: January, 1981  
          4509 S. Flamingo  
          Seabrook, Texas 77586  
          (713) 474-2321

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 100+

Organization Focus: Parents and educators working together for the mutual benefit  
                          of gifted and talented children.

Activities - past and present: Parent meetings; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Birdville Association for Gifted and Talented  
6125 E. Belknap Street  
Forth Worth, Texas 76101  
(817) 831-0951

Contact: Judy G. Horstman  
          6309 Greencastle Court  
          Fort Worth, Texas 76118

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Serves as a unifying catalyst among institutions that benefit  
                          gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Encouraging and promoting gifted and talented programs  
  in local schools.

Desired Future Activities: Communications.

---

East Texas Association for the Gifted  
Department of Special Services  
University of Texas at Tyler  
Tyler, Texas 75701  
(214) 566-1471, ext. 243

Contact: Dr. Rita Bryant

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 100

Organization Focus: Increase awareness and involvement of parents, citizens and  
                          educators in an eleven county area.

Activities - past and present: Conferences; seminars; workshops; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Summer and Saturday programs for gifted and talented  
  students.

---

Gifted Students Institute  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1119  
Arlington, Texas 76012  
(817) 265-7143

Contact: Dr. Ann McGee-Cooper                      Until: December, 1980  
          4236 Hockaday  
          Dallas, Texas 75229  
          (214) 357-4268

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 511

Organization Focus: Improve educational experiences of gifted and talented  
                          students, preschool through secondary.

Activities - past and present: Parenting seminars; helped organize state advocacy  
                                  group; residential programs on college campuses for  
                                  students ages 10-18.

Desired Future Activities: Work with a few carefully selected schools to develop  
                                  model programs for the gifted.

---

Houston Area Association for the Gifted and Talented  
7611 Fernbrook  
Houston, Texas 77070  
(713) 469-2307

Contact: Robert Durham                              Until: December, 1980

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 65

Organization Focus: Parent education; increase public awareness of needs of gifted  
                          and talented students.

Activities - past and present: Newsletter; parent workshop; guest speakers;  
                                  puppet and computer workshops.

Desired Future Activities: More children's programs; foreign language mini-courses.

---

Rio Grande Valley Association for Gifted and Talented Children  
Region One Esc.  
1900 W. Schunior  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(512) 383-5611, ext. 162

Contact: Dr. Kay Walther                              Until: October, 1981  
          933 Fairway  
          Edinburg, Texas 78539  
          (512) 383-8708

Additional Contact: Ms. Marllu Sturgis  
                          106 Live Oak  
                          Weslaco, Texas 78596  
                          (512) 968-7946

Membership: 53

Organization Focus: Getting programs in local schools and support groups for  
                          parents.

Activities - past and present: Monthly newsletters; Super Saturdays for members'  
                                  children; quarterly meetings; specific help when  
                                  requested.

Desired Future Activities: More service to students and public awareness of the  
                                  need to address the demands of giftedness.

---

Richardson Association for Gifted & Talented, Inc.  
9411 Hunters Creek  
Dallas, Texas 75243  
(214) 341-6507

Contact: Mrs. Minnie Champ                      Until: May 31, 1981  
          9411 Hunters Creek  
          Dallas, Texas 75243  
          (214) 341-6507

Additional Contact: Mrs. Liz Owens  
                      7704 Turnberry Lane  
                      Dallas, Texas 75248  
                      (214) 239-0506

Membership: 400+

Organization Focus: Provide enrichment activities and push for gifted and  
                          talented programs K-12 in local school district.

Activities - past and present: Mini-courses; Discovery Days (concurrent courses for  
  K-12); children's newsletters; monthly newsletters

Desired Future Activities: Funding efforts at state level; involvement in national  
                                  advocacy efforts

---

San Antonio Association for Gifted and Talented Children  
P.O. Box 5340  
San Antonio, Texas 78201  
(512) 680-1238

Contact: Martin L. Meltz                      Until: May, 1981  
          8418 Timber Crest  
          San Antonio, Texas 78250  
          (512) 680-1238 or (512) 691-7251

Additional Contact: Ms. Jerron Adams  
                      3015 Nantucket  
                      San Antonio, Texas 78230  
                      (512) 696-4619

Membership: 100

Organization Focus: Establishment of local school programs for gifted and talented  
                          students.

Activities - past and present: Established ad hoc parent groups; represented group  
  at school board meetings; speakers at meetings;  
  meetings to increase communication between parents  
  and teachers.

Desired Future Activities: National effort emphasizing potential of the gifted.

---

Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1119  
Arlington, Texas 76011  
(817) 265-7143

Contact: Mr. Phillip Gonzalez              Until: January, 1981  
          1301 E. Cherrystone  
          Corpus Christi, Texas  
          (512) 992-3336

Additional Contact: Mrs. Judy Judy  
                      P.O. Box 805  
                      Temple, Texas 76501  
                      (817) 780-2144

Membership: 425

Organization Focus: Promote education of the gifted and talented students; encourage  
                          new activities.

Activities - past and present: Sponsored an evening's program for legislators which  
  included dinner, entertainment by gifted students  
  and sharing of information; annual conferences.

Desired Future Activities: Advocacy of legislation at state and national levels.

---

Vermont

SAGE (State Association for Gifted Education in Vermont)  
Box 79A, RD#2  
Vergennes, Vermont 05401  
(802) 877-2484

Contact: Kathy Dates  
6 Oakridge Road  
Colchester, Vermont 05446  
(802) 658-4945

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: Awareness; information clearinghouse; legislative advocacy.

Activities - past and present: Statewide workshops; legislative action; mini-courses.

Desired Future Activities: Permanent mini-courses; advocacy at state and federal levels  
for increased appropriations for school programs.

---

Virginia

Bristol Junior League  
Drawer C  
Bristol, Virginia 24201  
(703) 764-5527

Contact: Julie King  
747 7th Avenue  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620  
(615) 764-5527

Until: April, 1981

Additional Contact: Pat Lawson  
Sparkling Brook Drive  
Bristol, Tennessee  
(615) 764-9614

Membership: 150

Organization Focus: Civic work

Activities - past and present: Information not reported

Desired Future Activities: Activating legislation for state of Tennessee -  
provisions for the gifted.

---

Fairfax County Association for the Gifted  
P.O. Box 186  
Merrifield, Virginia 22116  
(703) 560-7020

Contact: Marlene W. Blum  
2417 Lockett Avenue  
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 400

Organization Focus: Encourage cooperation and communication among parents, teachers and  
administrators in local gifted and talented programs; information  
dissemination; create public awareness of needs of gifted children.

Activities - past and present: Newsletter; meetings for parents and teachers; sponsor  
Fragments, a literary magazine written, illustrated and  
edited by local students; serve as liaison and source for  
local school system and parents.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---





V.A.E.G. (Virginia Association for the Education of the Gifted)  
P.O. Box 34621  
AMPT Hill Branch  
Richmond, Virginia 23234

Contact: Dr. Esther Goldman                      Until: May, 1981  
524 Butterworth Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23505  
(804) 423-0775

Additional Contact: Mrs. Sylvia B. White  
153 Stonewall Heights  
Abingdon, Virginia 24210  
(703) 628-6581

Membership: 500+

Organization Focus: Improve education of gifted persons; disseminate information;  
support research and scholarly investigation; encourage  
specialized preparation for educators; encourage increased  
support for the gifted at local and state levels.

Activities - past and present: Newsletter; lobbying before General Assembly.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of lobbying efforts and information  
dissemination.

---

#### Washington

Northwest Gifted Child Association  
P. O. Box 1226  
Bellevue, Washington 98009  
(206) 453-1007

Contact: Merle Dingfield    Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Margie Giordano  
P. O. Box 1226  
Bellevue, Washington 98009  
(206) 453-1007

Membership: 800

Organization Focus: Advocacy and reference

Activities - past and present: Issues forums, conferences, curriculum conferences,  
legislative efforts

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

#### West Virginia

Kanawha County Association for Gifted Children

Contact: Jonathan Kurland    Until: May, 1981  
1617 Kirklee Road  
Charleston, West Virginia 25314  
(304) 744-8060 or 747-5952

Additional Contact: Marilyn Fletcher  
2120 Weberwood Drive  
S. Charleston, West Virginia 25303  
(304) 344-3798

Membership: 250-300

Organization Focus: Advocacy for gifted program.

Activities - past and present: Workshops for parents; lobbying at local and state  
levels for quality and quantity in gifted programs.

Desired Future Activities: Summer camps and seminars for students.

---

Wisconsin

Eau Claire Area Association for High Potential Children, Inc.  
1912 Statz Avenue - Route 1  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701  
(715) 832-9298

Contact: Russell O. Heas, III, M.D.    Until: October, 1980  
2035 Lehman Street  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701  
(715) 832-8277

Additional Contact: Carole L. Green

Membership: 320

Organization Focus: Supplement traditional school program for students ages 3-17.

Activities - past and present: Accelerated math and foreign language programs;  
art, drama, math and science institutes; preschool  
program.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Greenfield Citizens for the Gifted and Talented  
3621 West Allerton Avenue  
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53221  
(414) 281-6729

Contact: Milton M. Mandel'in

Additional Contact: Francis P. Ryan  
3955 W. Honey Creek Circle  
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53221  
(414) 281-2566

Membership: Not reported

Organization Focus: Promote gifted and talented education; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Instrumental in establishing local gifted and talented  
program; inservices; newsletter.

Desired Future Activities: Legislation to have gifted and talented education mandatory  
in Wisconsin; activities for gifted and talented children  
in area.

---

New Berlin Council for the Gifted and Talented  
5345 South Majors Drive  
New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151  
(414) 679-1251

Contact: Jean Crotty

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 18

Organization Focus: Expand educational opportunities for the gifted and talented.

Activities - past and present: Meetings and speakers to develop an awareness of  
the needs of the gifted and talented.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of information dissemination activities.

---

NEWTAG, Inc. (Northeastern Wisconsin Talented and Gifted, Inc.)  
500 St. Mary's Blvd.  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301  
(414) 336-3607

Contact: Karen Lacey    Until: May, 1981

Additional Contact: Joanne Blom  
349 Gywnn  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301  
(414) 336-5862

Membership: 135

Organization Focus: Enhance public awareness of educational needs of gifted and talented students; establish and maintain open communication with teachers and administrators; encourage and support gifted and talented programs in local schools.

Activities - past and present: Mentor program; co-sponsored summer mini-courses; planned game days for children.

Desired Future Activities: Expansion of above activities; become more involved as advocacy group to encourage gifted and talented programs in local schools.

---

Parents for Gifted Education  
(Chapter of Wisconsin Council for Gifted and Talented)  
334 Spring Lake Road  
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501  
(715) 369-2806

Contact: Peggy Abel    Until: Fall, 1980

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 10

Organization Focus: Establishment of a gifted and talented program in local schools; information dissemination.

Activities - past and present: Responsible for establishment of gifted and talented program.

Desired Future Activities: Involvement with gifted and talented program as resource group; education of gifted and talented parents; Saturday classes for students.

---

Parents in Support of Gifted and Talented Education  
561 N. Main St.  
Oregon, Wisconsin 53575

Contact: Donna Mahr    Until: June, 1983  
(608) 835-3436

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 35

Organization Focus: Parent education; volunteers for local school programs; directing Federal IV C Project as advisory board members.

Activities - past and present: Trained as Junior Great Books leaders; helped create two classes for gifted and talented at high school level; introduced contests into high school curriculum; writing workshops for grades 1-6 after school.

Desired Future Activities: Development of area exchange of ideas for both parents and teaching staff.

---

Watertown Council for Creative Education  
916 Charles Street  
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094  
(414) 261-4050

Contact: R.A. Miller

Additional Contact: Not reported.

Membership: 20

Organization Focus: Lobbying for gifted and talented programs at local and state levels.

Activities - past and present: Local meetings; hosting of state meeting.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Whitefish Bay Association of Gifted and Talented  
5042 N. Ardmore Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
(414) 962-3619

Contact: Nancy Ghandi

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 15

Organization Focus: Parent input; edification of the gifted and talented field.

Activities - past and present: Enrichment programs.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Wisconsin Council for the Gifted and Talented  
3621 West Allerton Avenue  
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53221  
(414) 281-6729

Contact: Marilyn M. Bendixen                      Until: October, 1980  
3470 Greenbriar Court  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 788-0268

Additional Contact: Fred and Janet Kusch  
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 785-8149 or 788-0268

Membership: 360

Organization Focus: Public awareness; member information; annual conference; legislative initiative.

Activities - past and present: Annual conferences since 1974; monthly mailings to members, initiating force for legislation; workshops for parents.

Desired Future Activities: Creating respectability and honor for the gifted in the state.

---

Wisconsin Council for the Gifted and Talented - Madison Chapter  
2128 Fox Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711  
(608) 256-3182

Contact: Elizabeth W. Conner

Additional Contact: Not reported

Membership: 30

Organization Focus: Participation in statewide organizational activities.

Activities - past and present: None as organization. Members individually volunteer for various projects for gifted and talented students in local schools.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

#### Wyoming

Cheyenne Parents Association for Gifted Education  
5165 Hay Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
(307) 635-5395

Contact: Theodore J. Fetter                      Until: March, 1981

Additional Contact: Mary Woolsey  
6134 Kerry Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001  
(307) 634-1432

Membership: 50

Organization Focus: Increase community awareness of needs of gifted students; encourage and support local gifted and talented program.

Activities - past and present: Urging school district to establish resources; helping district establish testing and identification procedures; working at state level to increase attention to gifted.

Desired Future Activities: Information not reported.

---

Parents Association for Gifted Education (PAGE)  
225 Juniper Street  
Green River, Wyoming 82935  
(307) 875-7545

Contact: Ruth Dahlman                              Until: June, 1981

Additional Contact: Kathy Johnson  
1705 Massachusetts Court  
Green River, Wyoming 82935  
(307) 875-6866

Membership: 38

Organization Focus: Help parents understand gifted children; create public awareness.

Activities - past and present: Newsletter; enrichment classes.

Desired Future Activities: Help establish other parent groups.

# HOW A PARENT GROUP CAN EFFECT LEGISLATION FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED

## Is it possible for parents to effect the development and subsequent enactment of legislation for the gifted and talented?

Yes; in fact, most of the existing state legislation for the gifted and talented was greatly influenced by parents. In addition, the Education of Gifted and Talented Children's Act of 1978, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1978 (Public Law 95-561), was formulated with input and support from individual parents and parent groups across the country.

## How can parents of the gifted and talented effect legislation?

The best and most effective way parents can influence legislation for their children is through initiating and maintaining open and constant communication with their elected representatives. Elected officials represent all constituents, not just special interest groups. Communication to a representative should deal with pressing legislative issues and should include information that serves to clarify and nurture a given position. The most effective parent groups are those that are well informed about the issues surrounding the education of gifted and talented children, and can furnish specific content information to elected representatives at all levels of government.

## What strategies can parents use to effect legislation?

**Draft a bill.** A parent group can draft a bill sensitive to the needs of all gifted and talented children throughout their state. Once the bill is drafted, the group can then seek a sponsor from among their elected representatives.

**Get help from professional advocates.** Parents can contact a professional advocate organization for technical assistance in determining a direction and selecting a set of strategies to influence legislation.

**Write letters.** Writing letters is an activity that can be undertaken easily by individuals or groups. Letters help officials identify voter sentiment on major issues. The content of a letter should be explanatory without being wordy. Legislators

appreciate letters that are well thought out and clearly represent a particular point of view. While many letters may be similar, form letters should not be used, as they carry little weight.

**Make telephone calls.** This strategy is useful for short range activities and immediate input. When telephoning a representative's office, callers should identify themselves and their affiliation such as parent of a gifted and talented child, or member of (name of parent organization). If the legislator is out of the office, speak with a member of the staff. All information will be forwarded to the legislator.

**Send a wire.** Sending a wire encouraging representative support is most effective on the day a bill is due to be acted upon. Wires should be short and to the point. A good rule of thumb is no more than three typewritten lines.

**Visit your representative.** Visiting a representative's office requires a greater time and energy commitment than some of the other strategies but it is worthwhile because it allows the representative to personally identify an issue with a person or group.

**Testify.** Parents should offer testimony at scheduled legislative hearings to present a case for gifted and talented children.

Additional strategies that can be used include:

- Inviting legislators to visit classrooms or programs for the gifted and talented.
- Inviting legislators to speak or attend an organization's banquet.
- Making awards to legislators who have publicly advocated for the gifted and talented.
- Publicizing all relevant activities involving legislators in local newspapers and on radio and television.

This fact sheet is based in part on information presented in the *Political Action Network (PAN) Handbook*, prepared by the Governmental Relations Unit of The Council for Exceptional Children, Reston, Virginia. For more information and the name of your state's PAN representative, contact your CEC state federation or a local CEC chapter.

## RESOURCES

Higgins, S. T., *Special education administrative policies manual*. Reston VA: The Council for Exceptional Children, 1977, \$27.50.

Kroth, R. L., & Scholl, G. T., *Getting schools involved with parents*. Reston VA: The Council for Exceptional Children, 1978, \$5.00.

*The nation's commitment to the education of gifted and talented children and youth—Summary of findings from a 1977 survey of states and territories*. Reston VA: The Council for Exceptional Children, 1978, \$6.50.

Weintraub, F. J., Abeson, A. R., Ballard, J., & Lavor, M. L. *Public policy and the education of exceptional children*. Reston VA: The Council for Exceptional Children, 1976, \$13.95.

Prepared by John Grossi, Director, the Gifted and Talented Policy Information Project, Evaluation, Planning and Development Unit, The Council for Exceptional Children.