MINUTES
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN
March 1, 2016 Meeting 15

Venue:
Jefferson State Office Building
205 Jefferson Street, 7th Floor Conference Room, Jefferson City, MO 65101

TOPIC	NOTES
Members Present	Dr. Steven Coxon, Dr. Linda Smith, Dr. Lenae Lazzelle, Dr. Beth Winton, Mrs. Sally Holt and Mr. David Welch
Members Absent	Dr. Robin Lady and Dr. Rosemary Hodge-Graves
I. Call to Order	
Call to Order	Dr. Smith called the meeting of the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children to order at 10:05 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.
Approval of Agenda – March 1, 2016	It was moved by Dr. Winton and seconded by Dr. Lazzelle to approve the agenda of the March 1, 2016 meeting. (Yes: 5; No: 0)
Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2016	It was moved by Dr. Winton and seconded by Mrs. Holt to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2016 meeting, as amended. Motion was carried. (Yes: 5; No: 0)
Chair Comments – GAMbit (new article), Lunch & Learn, Other	Dr. Smith noted that the Council received a resignation letter from Dr. Hodge-Graves. Dr. Graves cited personal reasons for resigning. The Council needs to identify a replacement from the Kansas City area. If the Council members have any recommendations, let Mr. Welch know. Dr. Graves' term ends in 2017, so the replacement would complete her term. Dr. Smith will send a letter to Dr. Graves thanking her for her service.
II. Updates	
DESE Report	Mr. Welch reported that the Council needs to reduce the number of photocopies of material prepared for Council meetings. Whenever possible, web links or email attachment of material should be used. Mr. Welch has talked with the Special Education Office regarding serving twice exceptional students and they are going to pay for him to attend the Council of Exceptional Children Conference this April in St. Louis. Mr. Welch has recently been receiving increased questions about the Programs For Exceptionally Gifted Students (PEGS) in St. Louis and Kansas City. These programs were started in the 1990s and the original program people are no longer at the district. Dr. Smith suggested more information about these programs could be added to the Gifted web site and would be very helpful for districts.

Legislative Report	Representative Donna Pfautsch's bill (HB 1419) passed the MO House of Representatives and has moved to the Senate. This is the bill that states that a school district will incur a reduction in funding if it experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of more than 20%. The Senate version will be heard soon. Representative Chrissy Sommer's bill (HB 1429) has not been heard. This bill adds a weight of six-tenths for each gifted student who exceeds the school district's gifted threshold to the calculation of its weighted average daily attendance in the school foundation funding formula. If the weight does not pass, the current situation prevails with no penalty. Dr. Smith asked if the proposed adjustment to the formula is a substantial change. Mr. Welch said Representative David Wood's bill (HB 1493) reinstates the 5% cap on growth and eliminates the number of days that a school has to be in session. It no longer will be 174 days in class a year but a number of hours in a year. There is a financial incentive for districts that are not fully accredited to go a longer school year but this provision may be removed from the bill.
GAM Report	Dr. Lazzelle reported that last week was GAM Day at the Capitol. Attendance was down because of the weather. Upcoming GAM meetings are April 9th in Jefferson City, July 19th in conjunction with the New Teacher Workshop at Lindenwood University and the September 17th meeting will include a tour of the new Gifted Center in the North Kansas City School District. October 15-16 is the GAM Conference at the University of Missouri in Columbia.
III. Action Items	
	None
IV. Old Business	
Gifted Certification Requirements – Q & A	Mr. Welch handed out a question/answer sheet about new gifted certification requirements. Dr. Winton suggested listing all the requirements for certification at the top of the paper. There was a discussion by Council members about being "grandfathered" in the system. Mr. Welch said the language on the paper is what he received from the Certification Department. Dr. Coxon said his notes stated that if you were provisionally certified before August 1, 2017, that you were grandfathered in. Dr. Winton said her understanding was that if you were not finished by August 1, 2017, that you were not grandfathered in under the old certification requirements. Mr. Welch is going to talk to the Certification Department to get clarification. Dr. Lazzelle suggested making changes in the document that clarified all of the courses necessary for certification not just listing the changes and numbering the courses that are required. Mr. Welch will revise the document and bring it back for approval at the next meeting.
V. Discussion Items	
State of the States Report – Dr. Steve Coxon	Dr. Coxon distributed the 2014-2015 State of the States in Gifted Education Policy and Practice Data from the National Association for Gifted Children. He noted that page 9 gives an overview of 10 areas. Page 11 mentions that there were 42 states that responded. Pages 11 through 18 give an overview. Starting on page 58 are the questions that were asked in the survey.

	Dr. Smith said useful information from this report should be gleaned and included in our next report to the State Board of Education. Some more noteworthy items are on page 13 that notes 13 states permit acceleration strategies and 13 states had a policy that did not permit early entrance to Kindergarten. Page 14 notes 19 states that allow students to test out of courses.
VI. Study Items	
Recommendations # 1-5	Dr. Smith said the structure of our meetings has been (1) to get updates from Mr. Welch on the five recommendations approved by the Commissioner, (2) further the Council's collection of information on the five recommendations noted moved forward by the Commissioner, and (3) consider any new recommendations the Council may want to make in the second report to the State Board of Education. Dr. Smith said the Colorado State Department has a very good document that explains their process for identifying gifted students. A single test should not support the identification of a gifted student. Dr. Coxon said if you have a student that never scores really high on an achievement test but does score high on an IQ test, then they would be better served in a gifted program. Dr. Smith said she likes the idea of a talent pool. A talent pool gives students an opportunity to be identified through various means and it gives more flexibility through a portfolio assessment. Page 19 in Colorado's handout shows the assessment components Colorado uses. Page 11 discusses local norms. The Montana State Department of Education newly released publication discusses the continuum of learning and RTI. It is very comprehensive. Mr. Welch passed out a handout "Pathways to selection for participation in state approved gifted programs". Mr. Welch said as he looked at Colorado and Iowa's models, he looked at it with the view of putting something in the hands of the districts to use. He would like to use this opportunity as a way to move the model forward. He saw it as having different pathways of identifying students. As far as being compliant, Mr. Welch saw it as the minimum requirement. Dr. Smith said our job is to make recommendations to the Commissioner and State Board of Education. The Commissioner approved development of a best practices' model for the State. Dr. Winton said we want to show how we operationalize a nondiscriminatory identification plan. Dr. Smith would like to concentrate on an alternative identification pathway and would like the identification to be clearly explained and professional (like Colorado's document). Mr. Welch asked if it would be helpful to include a tester to assist in our discussion of identification. We need to see what the specific needs are for each of these groups of students and what the best practices would be. Dr. Smith asked if we had gathered enough information from the articles discussed today. Dr. Lazzelle said that she felt we should not look anywhere else. Mr. Welch will consult with Mrs. Holt and Dr. Coxon on

	their recommendations for addressing Recommendations # 4 and # 5 and copy Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith said when she was in a district, legal counsel advised having one alternative identification system rather than different identification systems for different sub-groups of students. On Recommendations # 1 and # 2, Mr. Welch is working to make progress on their implementation. The data section has backlogged due to numerous demands. Dr. Smith asked if she should write a letter to the Commissioner about the progress thus far from the Council. Mr. Welch said that would be advisable. The Council looked at the NAGC position statement "The Role of Assessments in the Identification of Gifted Students" and "Ensuring Gifted Children with Disabilities Receive Appropriate Services: Call for Comprehensive Assessment". The Council also reviewed NAGC's position statement "Identifying and Serving Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Gifted Students". Whatever the Council adopts, it should align with the NAGC publication "2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards". There are numerous resources available on special needs populations and the quality of the resources has increased. The Iowa Department of Education has on page 19 of the handout recommended practices for identifying and screening English Language Learners.
VII. Lunch & Learn – Mrs. Sally Holt	
	Mrs. Holt discussed "Creating a Toolkit for Identifying Twice-Exceptional Students" handout. The article talked about screening and that special education students could be referred to the gifted program at any time. There is a team that first determines where to start with the student. Once that is determined, the student goes through a time period where they are put in a talent pool or process to see what they accomplish there. If they appear to be gifted, then they proceed with testing. Dr. Smith said it is one thing to put out best practice concepts but it is another thing to require districts to do something. If the district cannot do all the things outlined in the best practices, we should list them in priority order.
VIII. Study Items (Continued)	
Recommendations – Update # 6-10	Recommendation # 6 needs more information based upon the book "A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students". The new edition is a Nation Empowered. Dr. Coxon will update this recommendation with information in Montana's State Department of Education's document and a Nation Empowered. In Recommendation # 7, Dr. Lazzelle said she has not rewritten the language yet. For Recommendation # 9, Dr. Winton emailed all the states and she received few responses, many telling her to look at the State of the State's report. Dr. Winton created charts that were in the State of the State's report.

	She distributed the "Moving from 2015 to 2016 Recommendations for Action" handout.
Recommendations • Continuum of Services Model • Modifications to State Guidelines (including Appeal Process, other key gifted program issues)	Dr. Winton distributed the "2016 Recommendations for Action" for Recommendation # 11 Levels of Service. Dr. Lazzelle said she believes that levels of service belong under programming. Dr. Smith said it might be better for the Gifted Education Manual to address levels of service. Mr. Welch said the administrative manual is included by reference into the administrative rule and should be narrowly focused on administrative procedures and guidelines, and levels of service should not be in the administrative manual. Dr. Smith asked Mr. Welch what he would take out of the current manual. Mr. Welch said he would take out dates, the flow chart, certification requirements and put a link to certification requirements, etc. Mr. Welch recommended the Council propose only those things they want all districts to have to comply with be included in the administrative manual.
IX. Public Comment	
	None
X. Planning Upcoming Meeting(s)	
• Dates (2016) – May 17, July 19 (Lindenwood), October 16 (GAM Conference), November/December • Dates (2017) – February 22 (GAM Day) • Next Meeting Topics	Next meeting is May 17th in Jefferson City, MO.
Next Meeting Topics	
XI. Adjournment	
	A motion was made by Dr. Winton and seconded by Mrs. Holt to adjourn. (Yes: 5: No: 0). The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Attachments:
Agenda for March 1, 2016
Minutes of January 15, 2016
2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards by NAGC
Position Statement: Ensuring Gifted Children with Disabilities Receive Appropriate Services: Call for Comprehensive Assessment by NAGC
Position Statement: The Role of Assessments in the Identification of Gifted Students by NAGC
Position Statement: Identifying and Serving Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Gifted Students by NAGC
Gifted Advisory Council Moving from 2015 to 2016 Recommendations for Action
Creating a Toolkit for Identifying Twice-Exceptional Students by William F. Morrison and Mary G. Rizza
Gifted Identification by the Colorado Department of Education
Identifying Gifted and Talented English Language Learners by the Iowa Department of Education
Supporting the Identification and Achievement of the Twice-Exceptional Student by the Virginia Department of Education
Moving From 2015 to 2016 Recommendations for Action
2016 Recommendations for Action

Pathways to selection for participation in state approved gifted programs
New Gifted Certification Requirements
Alternative Identification Example for Underrepresented Students using WISC Subtest Scores
2014-2015 State of the States in Gifted Education Policy and Practice Data by the National Association for Gifted Children
Treasures Data Card for Gifted Program Identification by the Center for Creative Learning
Addressing Under-representation of Student Populations in Gifted Programs from State of Washington