

Administrative Memo

Date: February 28, 2017

To: School Administrators

From: Craig Rector, Coordinator, Grants and Resources

Subject: QS-17-001 - SB 638 - Gifted Education Program Desk Audit

Senate Bill 638, passed by the General Assembly in 2016 and signed into law by the Governor, requires the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to do an annual desk audit of the state-approved Gifted Programs October Cycle Core Data to verify compliance with the rules and regulations for state-approved gifted programs. According to the law, if a district experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of 20 percent or more from the previous school year, an amount equal to the product of the difference between the number of students enrolled in the gifted program in the current school year and the number of students enrolled in the gifted program in the previous school year multiplied by \$680 shall be subtracted from the district's current year payment amount. The provisions of this subdivision shall apply to districts entitled to receive state aid payments but shall not apply to any school district with an average daily attendance of 350 or less.

The payment adjustment provision will be first implemented in the 2017-18 school year. To establish the initial base enrollment for this comparison, we will use the data submitted by districts in their April 2017 MOSIS Student Information files indicating if a student is identified as gifted and is currently being served in a state-approved gifted program with the Code GS. If your district has a state-approved gifted program, you need to ensure that each year you accurately complete the required October and April Core Data and MOSIS information about these programs to ensure compliance with the provisions of this legislation.

A state-approved program requires three things:

- 1) A teacher with gifted certification (minimum of temporary authorization or provisional in gifted education) leads the gifted assignment.
- 2) Students are placed in the program pursuant to at least the minimum state selection guidelines.
- 3) The identified gifted students have a minimum of 150 contact minutes per week of direct instruction with the certified teacher of the gifted.

The Gifted Education Section will be conducting desk audits. The review will look at the October Core Data submitted by districts to ensure that screen 25 outlining the district selection criteria was completed correctly; only appropriate courses were listed as state-approved gifted with a course code of 990808 and program code of 08; all appropriate courses meet for the required 150 contact minutes per week; and all teachers are appropriately certified.

An email will be sent to the gifted education contact person indicating that the district is in substantial compliance or that discrepancies were discovered in the data that need to be corrected. The Gifted Education Section will work with districts to make sure the necessary data corrections are made.

If you have any questions, please contact David Welch at 573-751-7754 or david.welch@dese.mo.gov.