Advisory Council for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION – 2015

Reporting Data on Gifted Students and Programs

RECOMMENDATION 1: DESE should make district information related to state-approved gifted programs readily accessible to the public. Specifically, information available on DESE's website should include but not be limited to grade levels served, identification criteria, service delivery model by level (per DESE categories), contact minutes per week by level, number of gifted teachers by level and the student-to-teacher ratio by level.

RECOMMENDATION 2: DESE should generate an annual state data report in October on gifted students and state approved gifted programs. The report should use data from the prior school year and include but not be limited to:

- Number and percent of districts with state-approved gifted programs (state totals and disaggregated by DESE region and county)
- Number and percent of gifted students served in state-approved programs (state totals and disaggregated by DESE region and county; by grade level and as a percent of all Missouri students in grade level)
- Number and percent of gifted students identified and not served in state-approved programs (state totals and disaggregated by DESE region and county; by grade level and percent of all identified gifted students)
- Gifted teacher certification in state-approved gifted programs by level (Elementary, Middle School, High School and total)
- Gifted program types and contact minutes per week (state total by program type, level, DESE region and county; average contact minutes by level, DESE region and county)
- Gifted student demographics by DESE region (district cells merged so actual count is possible) and total
- Gifted student achievement (MAP) by grade level tested and in comparison to all students at grade levels tested

Identification of Gifted Students

RECOMMENDATION 3: DESE should eliminate the practice of reporting students as gifted based on the criterion of being enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) course. Additionally, AP and/or IB courses should not be counted as part of a state-approved gifted program.

RECOMMENDATION 4: DESE should provide a best practice model for districts to use in identifying and serving students who are traditionally underrepresented in gifted programs, the goal being to have program participants more closely reflect the ethnic, linguistic and socio-economic diversity of individual school districts. The best practice model should include research-based recommendations on identification, interventions to scaffold learning and delivery of gifted program services.

RECOMMENDATION 5: DESE should provide a best practice model for districts to use in identifying students who are twice exceptional (students with both learning challenges due to disabilities and/or physical impairments and exceptional learning abilities).

Programming for Gifted Students

RECOMMENDATION 6: DESE should require all Missouri districts to have a policy allowing acceleration for students demonstrating advanced performance or potential for advanced performance and the social/emotional readiness for such acceleration. The policy should include subject acceleration and whole grade acceleration, among other opportunities.

Educator Preparation and Professional Development

RECOMMENDATION 7: DESE should require teacher preparation programs to include a minimum of one three-credit hour course addressing the nature and needs of gifted students and designing curriculum and instruction to meet those needs.

RECOMMENDATION 8: DESE should require all districts to provide teachers ongoing professional development addressing the nature and needs of gifted students and designing curriculum and instruction to meet those needs. Professional development may include such options as staff development, university coursework, professional conferences, workshops and web-based learning.

Requiring and Funding Gifted Education

RECOMMENDATION 9: Gifted identification and programming should be required in Missouri.

RECOMMENDATION 10: Earmarked funds should be allocated for gifted identification and programming in Missouri.