

Supporting and Sustaining Gifted Education: ***The role of parent advocate***

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Presentation Overview

What's the Story?

- I. Exploring the National Landscape
 - a. Key National Messages
 - b. Policies That Support Gifted Learners
- II. The Role of NAGC
 - a. Mobilizing and Educating Members
 - b. Advocacy Resources
- III. Advocacy Tools You Can Use



Telling the Story

- Tell your story using specific examples from your district
- Use the voices of your kids
- Plan ahead--identify your objectives and opportunities to achieve them
- Build relationships and make connections
- Explain the need/tout results
- Meet with elected officials
- Writer letters to the editor

Key National Messages

U.S. Competitiveness

Invest in Excellence - An investment in gifted education is an investment in America's future.

Our nation's quest to remain "First in the world" depends on developing America's greatest minds.

Our nation's ability to compete tomorrow depends on how well schools challenge advanced students today.



Key National Messages

Theme: Meeting the Special Learning Needs of Gifted Students

- Gifted students don't just learn more, they learn differently.
- Failing to provide appropriate instruction to high-ability students can hinder their development, just as treating an illness with the wrong medications can be harmful to patients.

Key National Messages

- **Theme: Giftedness Among Underserved and Disadvantaged Populations**
- When gifted students from disadvantaged backgrounds lose ground year after year, our nation is leaving students behind.
- For gifted learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, the achievement gap can become a chasm that's impossible to cross.

The Changing Educational Landscape

What's Out...What's In

1. **OUT:** Complacency among educational leaders

IN: STEM and School Reform

2. **OUT:** Preaching to the Choir

IN: Reaching Out to General Education/Forming Coalitions



The Changing Educational Landscape

What's Out...What's In

3. **OUT:** “Anything Goes”
Approach to
Teaching

IN: Linking Teacher
Accountability to
Student Performance

4. **OUT:** Marginalizing
Parents

IN: Passionate Parents
as Effective
Advocates for
Services



The Changing Educational Landscape

What's Out...What's In

5. **OUT:** Individuals
Supporting High
Potential

IN: Connecting for High
Potential

6. **OUT:** Using Distance as
an Excuse for Not
Providing Gifted
Services

IN: Exploding Online
Content & Virtual
Classroom
Support



The Changing Educational Landscape

What's Out...What's In

7. **OUT:** Gifted Students
Can Make it on
Their Own

IN: All Students Deserve
an Appropriate
Education

8. **OUT:** Single Choice
Public School
Options

IN: “Privatization of Public
Schools Education”
(e.g.. Charter School
Movement)



Policies That Support Gifted Education

- A well-defined and implemented curriculum scope and sequence should be articulated for all grade levels and all subject areas.
- Possibilities for partial or full acceleration of content and grade levels should be available to any student presenting such needs.
- The designated gifted programming coordinator must have completed a certification program or advanced degree program in gifted education.
- Levels of services should be matched to the needs of gifted learners by providing a full continuum of options.

Policies That Support Gifted Education

- Gifted education programming must receive funding consistent with the program goals and sufficient to adequately meet them.
- Gifted education policies should exist for at least the following areas: early entrance, grade skipping, ability grouping, and dual enrollment.
- School districts should allocate adequate time, financial support, and personnel to conduct systematic program evaluation.
- Counseling services should be provided by a counselor familiar with specific training in the characteristics and socio-emotional needs (i.e., underachievement, multipotentiality, etc.) of diverse gifted learners.

Policies That Support Gifted Education

- All school staff should be provided ongoing staff development in the nature and needs of gifted learners, and appropriate instructional strategies.
- All personnel working with gifted learners should participate in regular staff development programs.
- Parents should be provided with specials workshops or seminars to gain a full meaning of giftedness.
- Student assessment data should come from multiple sources and include multiple assessment methods.

Supporting and Sustaining Gifted Education

II. The Role of NAGC

- Mission
- National Strategy for Supporting High Potential Students
- Resources

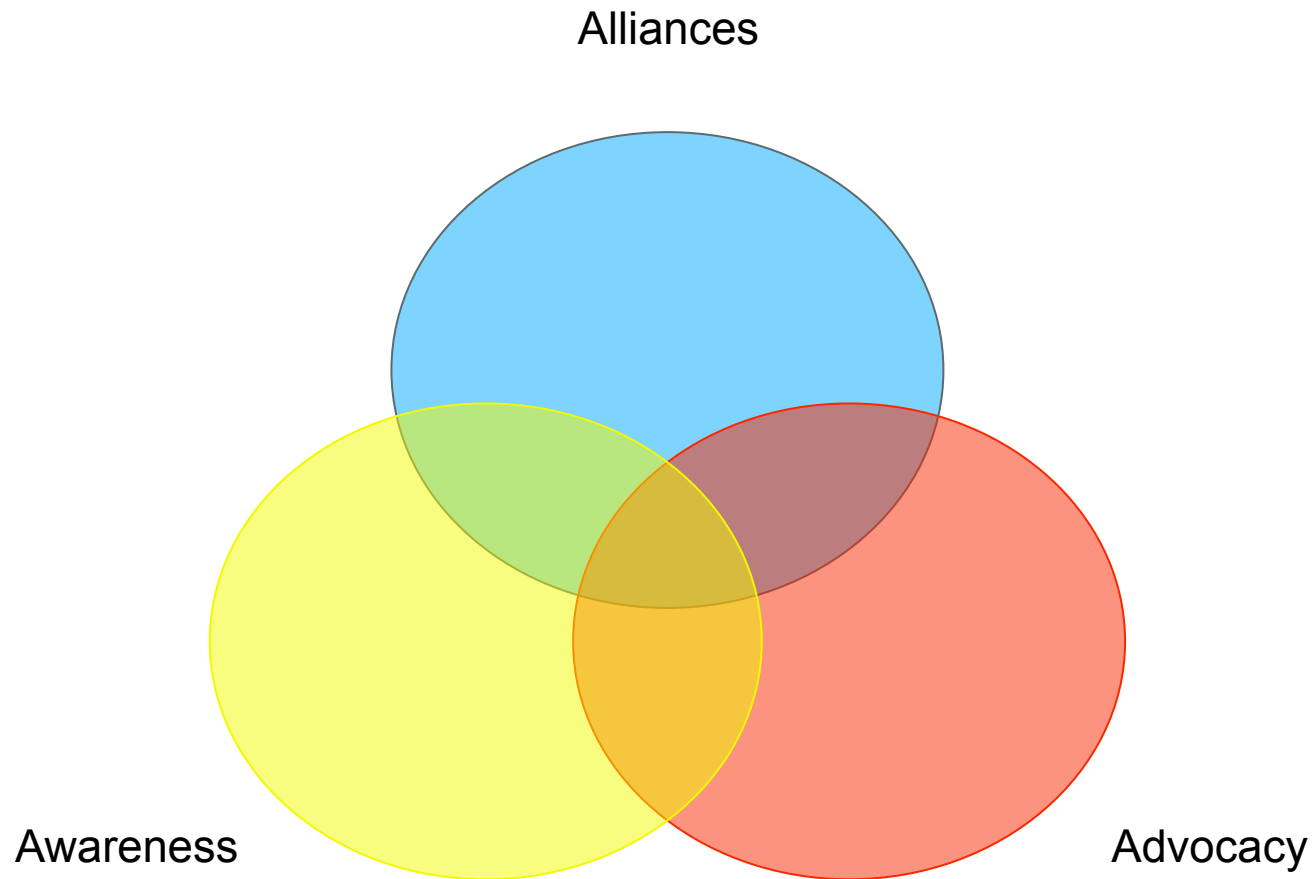


Mission

- The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is an organization of parents, teachers, educators, other professionals, and community leaders who unite to address the unique needs of children and youth with demonstrated gifts and talents as well as those children who may be able to develop their talent potential with appropriate educational



NAGC's Approach



National Strategy for High Potential Students

All gifted and talented students in the U.S. are identified early and well supported to maximize their academic potential.

Awareness

There are Gifted and Talented Students in All Student Populations

Gifted Students Don't Just Make It on Their Own

Gifted and Talented Students Need Specialized Educational Services

Advocacy

Policies Promoting Equity in Identification and Services

Accountability Systems Must Measure Advanced Achievement

Policies Should Accommodate Accelerated Learning

Advocate for Federal, State and Local Funding

Research Should Translate to Improved Instructional Practices

Alliances

Build Coalitions with General Education Organizations

Use Interest in STEM as Vehicle for Support

Supporting and Sustaining Gifted Education

III. Advocacy Tools You Can Use



Reasons for Public Relations in Gifted Education:

- *to **promote** a better understanding of the nature and needs of gifted children and youth*
- *to **gain** positive support for appropriate programs*
- *to **keep** all constituent groups informed on key issues*
- *to **build** a knowledge base for advocacy*

Get Started

- Decide on a clear goal.
- Identify objectives and activities to reach your goal.
- Select appropriate strategies.
- Determine cost effectiveness.
- Establish a reasonable timeline with dates for initiation, completion, and person(s) responsible.
- Develop evaluation criteria so you will know when you have achieved your goal.
- Get others involved so that you increase your support and communications base.

What should you be asking?

- How can we remind legislators and other key decision makers of the value of gifted education?
- How do we celebrate academic success?
- How do we link the accomplishments of our students to the wider community?
- How do we measure results?

NAGC'S Advocacy Toolkit

- [Know Your Information](#) - Check this out for fast facts about gifted and talented and why we need to advocate for students and programs!
- [Know Your Audience](#) - Look here for information about who works on what issues and how to contact them.
- [Effective Advocacy](#) - Read expert advice on effective communication and maximizing your impact.
- [Support Groups](#) - Advocating as part of a group gives you strength. Here are some suggestions on forming and finding support groups.
- [Local Advocacy](#) - Some of the most important decisions happen in your own community or school district, click here to learn more.
- [State Advocacy](#) - Advocating in your state? Check here for suggestions on how your state group can assess the legislative landscape.
- [Federal Advocacy](#) - Find out how to best communicate your message to Congress.
- [Legislative Update](#) - Read about current issues in Congress.



Supporting the needs of high potential learners

NAGC ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

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www.nagc.org



> Convention



The 2007 proposal process is now closed. You'll be hearing from us in the coming weeks!

> New at NAGC



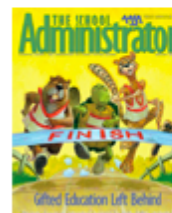
Conference Proceedings from the National Leadership Conference on Low-Income Promising Learners.

> Resource Directory

NAGC's Resource Directory provides information on valuable resources for the gifted.

[Click Here](#) to view over 100 schools, programs, publishers, and other services for gifted students.

> Gifted Left Behind



Administrators wrestle with gifted and NCLB.

AASA devotes magazine to meeting the needs of gifted learners in an NCLB environment. NAGC has compiled resources for

And Finally...

NAGC has numerous resources to help advocates improve their skills. Visit www.nagc.org:

- *Advocacy Toolkit* (legislation & advocacy)
- Join the Legislative Action Network
- Gifted Ed Standards (info & resources)
- Mile Marker Series
- Articles and brochures

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Thank You!

www.nagc.org

