

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

The board and members of the Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted would like to express its dismay at the lack of state support for districts for implementation of the Oregon Talented and Gifted mandate even as Oregon plans to provide additional funding for other groups of students. We agree that special needs students need support, but Talented and Gifted students are also special-needs students and the complete lack of support for TAG services in Oregon places them at risk and continues to dim our economic future.

Currently, there is a grant-in-aid that provides one FTE position at the Oregon Department of Education for TAG services. However, there is no state funding and no federal funding allocated to districts to carry out this state-mandated program.

As a result, according to the most recent data available (2012-13), 88 Oregon school districts report spending nothing at all to provide TAG services. Not surprisingly, many of those districts have not identified any TAG students. Most have no TAG staffing to identify students. However, about 1,400 identified TAG students also live in those 88 districts.

TAG identification, services and spending all vary enormously from district to district, creating serious inequities for students. In addition, The State Wide Report Card 2014 (p.82) clearly shows the under-identification of students in ethnic and socioeconomic subgroups in proportion to their representation in the overall student population.

Overall district spending on TAG students has fallen dramatically (see attached chart 1). Even though the overall percentage of students identified for TAG has also fallen, the per-capita expenditure for identified TAG students has fallen steadily even as spending on other special-needs students has increased (see attached chart 2):

When Oregon does not identify highly capable students, does not fund their instruction, and does not provide consistent services from district to district, it makes it much harder for Oregon students to succeed in four-year universities and attain middle-class, professional careers. It reduces our social mobility and discourages professional families and companies that employ highly educated workers from moving into Oregon. It also makes it much harder for the state to achieve the 40-40-20 goal.

It appears that it also perpetuates our achievement gap, as Portland data shows that the achievement gap between minority/low-income students and other students is greatest among our highest-performing students.

We believe that Oregon must find funding to support the state law that requires districts to identify and serve Talented and Gifted students. We urge you to amend HB 5016 and/or HB 5017 accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret DeLacy, Ph.D.

Chair, Government Relations Committee

Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted Box 1703 Beaverton, Oregon 97075

Attached:

Chart 1: TAG--ESL--Special Education expenditures, 1999-00 to 2012-13

Chart 2: Per Capita spending for Special Education--TAG--English Learners 2004-5 to 2012-13

## Expenditures on TAG, ESL, and Special Education Oregon School Districts and ESDs

	Talented and Gifted (TAG)			English as a Second Language (ESL)			Special Education		
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total	General Fund	Special Funds	Total	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
1999-00	\$7,251,805	\$108,276	\$7,360,081	\$50,316,632	\$3,186,654	\$53,503,286	\$354,472,984	\$128,660,044	\$483,133,028
2000-01	\$7,656,583	\$128,235	\$7,784,818	\$60,025,238	\$3,322,358	\$63,347,596	\$403,278,883	\$136,625,565	\$539,904,448
2001-02	\$7,122,189	\$125,965	\$7,248,154	\$64,552,624	\$3,545,134	\$68,097,758	\$430,838,791	\$154,183,484	\$585,022,276
2002-03	\$7,849,441	\$202,651	\$8,052,092	\$70,614,204	\$5,441,204	\$76,055,408	\$437,694,422	\$166,602,383	\$604,296,805
2003-04	\$6,837,848	\$287,355	\$7,125,203	\$78,106,694	\$6,004,083	\$84,110,777	\$456,668,971	\$168,552,473	\$625,221,444
2004-05	\$7,317,600	\$172,384	\$7,489,984	\$87,891,308	\$5,550,245	\$93,441,553	\$480,527,141	\$199,225,610	\$679,752,751
2005-06	\$7,351,625	\$306,782	\$7,658,407	\$106,523,728	\$6,206,870	\$112,730,598	\$518,925,317	\$222,750,918	\$741,676,235
2006-07	\$6,435,786	\$278,921	\$6,714,707	\$117,310,833	\$6,149,455	\$123,460,288	\$553,499,352	\$230,055,955	\$783,555,307
2007-08	\$6,951,942	\$148,595	\$7,100,537	\$123,224,664	\$6,137,374	\$129,362,038	\$589,939,734	\$231,659,595	\$821,599,329
2008-09	\$7,403,723	\$324,984	\$7,728,707	\$130,780,057	\$6,348,531	\$137,128,589	\$605,441,907	\$240,299,246	\$845,741,153
2009-10	\$6,860,519	-\$235,318	\$6,625,201	\$126,712,498	\$4,203,614	\$130,916,112	\$622,095,824	\$259,906,946	\$882,002,770
2010-11	\$5,401,393	\$134,067	\$5,535,460	\$128,553,780	\$3,112,126	\$131,665,906	\$616,411,335	\$262,182,440	\$878,593,775
2011-12	\$5,050,574	\$104,174	\$5,154,748	\$129,112,540	\$3,191,781	\$132,304,321	<b>\$645,533,905</b>	\$220,553,915	<b>\$866,087,820</b>
2012-13	\$4,692,508	\$83,126	\$4,775,634	\$129,152,392	\$2,761,831	\$131,914,223	\$652,958,659	\$220,260,389	\$873,219,048

Revised

(p)= preliminary

Source: School district and ESD audited financial statements as reported to the Oregon Department of Education

**Expenditures on TAG, ESL, and Special Education  
Oregon School Districts and ESDs**

Year	<u>SPECIAL EDUCATION</u>	<u>ESL</u>	<u>TAG</u>
2004-05	\$9,521	\$1,539	\$191
2005-06	\$10,371	\$1,728	\$186
2006-07	\$10,908	\$1,905	\$158
2007-08	\$11,403	\$1,908	\$167
2008-09	\$11,611	\$2,570	\$187
2009-10	\$12,008	\$2,052	\$158
2010-11	\$11,948	\$2,052	\$133
2011-12	\$11,636	\$2,259	\$128
2012-13	\$11,675	\$2,381	\$120