

We need TAG funding, not just for our students, but also for our teachers. We have been navigating the Oregon public school system for the last 13 years. We have had successes and failures with our daughters teachers. We have had teachers be excited to find a student able to do more involved class work, but usually we found teachers who had no idea how to teach their class materials at an accelerated or in-depth level.

Imagine how frustrated a teacher feels when they have to explain to a parent they can not meet the needs of a student. I would like to see all teachers know how to approach the students needs for every class they teach. As well as special instruction on the differences between a talented student and a gifted student. Gifted students need more expectations and communication from their students than a talented student who will do the work with little direction. Imagine being told today that you have to read Dick and Jane forty times today and record it to prove you know how to read. By the twentieth time you are frustrated and tired of proving you know how to read. A gifted student will feel this way after the first time. They feel homework is overrated and a waste of time. They want to be challenged otherwise they will act out or daydream.

Our teachers need training for this. Our daughter was only identified after she scored above 97 on the cogat test in the second grade. We had tried several times to talk to the teachers about her abilities, but until the test results were told that a student could not do what we claimed. Now imagine not speaking the same language as your students teacher, would your child ever be identified and offered independent study.

We were lucky and our daughters counselors worked with us during her high school years to place her in an early college program early. But we had been advocating for skipping her to Junior level when she turned 16. Other parents do not have the knowledge that these options even exist.

There were lots of other parents that we helped with the process of getting their child identified. TAG needs funding at the same level as the bottom five percent of students receive.