Minnesota Department of Education

Frequently Asked Questions about Minnesota's Gifted & Talented Legislation

Does the new legislation require schools to identify gifted and talented learners and provide appropriate programs for them?

Minnesota is a local control state which means that districts and charter school may choose to identify gifted learners and the level of services provided to them. Legislation enacted in 2005 provides districts and charter schools with funding for gifted and talented services and guidelines for student identification.

Article 1, Section 17 of the legislation permits districts to adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students. The stated guidelines are to include the use of:

1) Multiple and objective criteria; and,

2) Assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research.

Who is eligible to receive the gifted and talented funding?

All Minnesota public school districts and charters schools receive funding under the new legislation.

Does my school need to apply to receive the money?

No, school districts and charter schools will receive funding automatically.

How much money will my school receive?

School districts and charter schools will receive $12 times the district's adjusted marginal cost pupil units.

How can the money be spent?

The Article 1, Section 18 of the law requires school districts to reserve gifted and talented revenue's use, and restrict it to the following areas:

1) Identification of gifted and talented students;

2) Provision of education programs for gifted and talented students; or,

3) Provision of staff development to prepare teachers to best meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students.

How can I track the funds?

Contact the school district's business manager. The funds are wrapped into the IDEA payments.

Is the money ongoing?

Yes, the money is ongoing.

Which finance codes should we use?

Use Program Dimension Code 218 and Finance Dimension Code 388 for Gifted and Talented revenue and expenditures.

What if the district doesn't spend all the money?

Residual funds must be reserved and recorded on Balance Sheet 448 and may be used at a future date for gifted and talented as outlined in Article 1, Section 18 of the law.

Is there a reporting mechanism?

Financial reporting will occur at year end. Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) year-end reporting will track revenues, (site-based) expenditures and related fund balances.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact Wendy Behrens, Gifted & Talented Education Specialist for program information at: wendy.behrens@state.mn.us or 651-582-8786.

Contact Terri Yetter, Program Finance Division for finance related questions at: terri.yetter@state.mn.us or 651-582-8868.