



What You Can Do to Support the TAGT Legislative Policy Statement

Texas Senate and Texas House

1. Write or e-mail your state senator and state representative. Let them know that you support gifted education and advanced academic programs. See the TAGT Legislative Policy Statement at the end of this document. TAGT favors transparency and accountability for gifted education, and well-trained professionals to meet the unique needs of gifted students.

How to Contact Your Representatives

E-Mail address: first.last@house.state.tx.us or first.last@senate.state.tx.us

Mail address:	The Honorable _____	The Honorable _____
	Texas House of Representatives	Texas Senate
	P.O Box 2910	P.O. Box 12068
	Austin, TX 78768-2910	Austin, TX 78711-2068

2. If you have the time and opportunity, try to set up a visit with your legislators when they are back in your home district. You can also set up an appointment if you are in Austin. It also is possible to visit with a staff member in the Austin office or the local district office. Most importantly, make yourself and your opinion known.

Key Legislators to Contact

House Public Education Committee

Chair:	Rep. Rob Eissler (The Woodlands)	rob.eissler@house.state.tx.us
Vice Chair:	Rep. Scott Hochberg (Houston)	scott.hochberg@house.state.tx.us
Members:	Rep. Alma Allen (Houston)	alma.allen@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock (Killeen)	jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr. (Houston)	harold.dutton@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Joe Farias (San Antonio)	joe.farias@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Jim Jackson (Carrollton)	jim.jackson@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Dora Olivo (Richmond)	dora.olivo@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Diane Patrick (Arlington)	diane.patrick@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Mark Shelton (Fort Worth)	mark.shelton@house.state.tx.us
	Rep. Randy Weber (Pearland)	randy.weber@house.state.tx.us

Senate Education Committee

Chair:	Sen. Florence Shapiro (Plano)	florence.shapiro@senate.state.tx.us
Vice Chair:	Sen. Dan Patrick (Houston)	dan.patrick@senate.state.tx.us
Members:	Sen. Kip Averitt (Waco)	kip.averitt@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Wendy Davis (Fort Worth)	wendy.davis@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Mario Gallegos (Galena Park)	Mario.gallegos@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Steve Ogden (Bryan)	steve.ogden@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Leticia Van de Putte (San Antonio)	leticia.vandeputte@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Royce West (Dallas)	royce.west@senate.state.tx.us
	Sen. Tommy Williams (The Woodlands)	tommy.williams@senate.state.tx.us



Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented
Legislative Policy Statement
Approved by the Executive Board January 8, 2009

Strengthening Assessment and Accountability for Gifted/Talented Students

TAGT recommends that the Texas Legislature *adopt a growth model approach to accountability* ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all students **and** when reviewing and proposing relevant legislation and policies for recognized special populations that the Texas Legislature *include the state mandated and nationally recognized special population of Gifted /Talented in all state and local accountability indices* with the performance of G/T students reported with equal impact on district accountability as that of other special populations. These indices include but are not be limited to state reporting systems such as PEIMS, AEIS, Performance Based Monitoring Accountability, and Gold Performance Awards.

Within the recommended equitable growth model accountability,

Pursuant to Texas Education Code, Chapter 29, Subchapter 3 § 29.123 and Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part II, Chapter 89, Subchapter A, **TAGT recommends** that local Boards of Education submit an annual affidavit to TEA assuring review and evaluation of compliance with accountability standards defined in *The Texas State Plan for the Education of the Gifted/Talented*.

Well-prepared, Successful Educational Workforce

TAGT recommends that the Texas Legislature recognize and support requirements for well-prepared, successful educators from diverse backgrounds who exhibit solid grounding in Gifted/Talented pedagogy that centers on research based standards.

Within the recommended educational requirements,

- ◆ Pursuant to the Higher Ed Act, Public Law 110-315, **TAGT recommends** that these teachers be able to use strategies that focus on the identification of G/T students' specific learning needs and differentiation to meet those needs.
- ◆ Pursuant to Public Law 110-315, IDEA Act 2004, **TAGT recommends** that teachers be able to identify and serve gifted students with disabilities, e.g., twice exceptional.