

## *How Can I Be An Effective Parent?*

Listen to your child.

Learn about the nature and nurture of giftedness.

Know your rights as a parent and your child's rights as a member of the student population.

Provide a home environment as rich as family resources will allow.

Seize every opportunity to broaden the real world intellectual base of the gifted child; museums, concerts, galleries, and adults with special gifts.

Join educational organizations both at the local school and at the state and national level. Send a clear message to your child that you care about education.

Join with other parents in learning about giftedness and forming a group for supporting the gifted program.

Prepare for school conferences with specific questions and evidence of concerns. At the school conference, state your concerns positively, pleasantly and forthrightly. Remain open for dialogue.

Follow up the school conference with a thank you message, noting specific situations about which you are pleased.

Offer to assist with school programs, not just the gifted program.

Remember that the gifted are children first and gifted second. They have all the social, emotional and intellectual needs of other children. At the same time, they have particular needs related to their giftedness.

## *Where Will I Find Support?*

### *Local*

Each school district designates a member of the staff to be in charge of the district program. A call to your local school will put you in touch with the local district staff member responsible for programming for the gifted. Also inquire about a local gifted and talented parent group. Consider starting one and support gifted programming for all students, now and in the future. Consider meeting with the school building administration, classroom teacher, gifted programming coordinator, and school counselor.

### *State*

Iowa Talented and Gifted Association  
8345 University Blvd., Ste. F-1  
Des Moines, IA 50325-1168  
Phone: 515-225-2323

Rosanne Malek  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146  
Phone: 515-281-3199

### *National*

Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education  
and Talent Development  
600 Blank Honors Center  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-0454  
Phone: 800-336-6463, 319-335-6148

National Association for Gifted Children  
1707 L Street, NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202-785-4268

## *Promises to Keep...*

### *Advocating for Gifted Education*



*Prepared by Iowa Talented  
and Gifted Association*

*For Parents and Friends  
of Iowa's Gifted Children*

## ***What Are A Gifted Child's Rights?***

A gifted child has...

The right to be interested.

The right to be challenged.

The right to explore interests in depth.

The right to create real world products or performances.

The right to be excused from material already covered.

The right to contact with intellectual peers.

The right to be involved in educational decision-making.

The right to express divergent points of view.

The right to be unique.

The right to have time for thinking and dreaming.

The right to have significant adult support.

The right to fail.

Adapted from Mary Jackson

## ***What Questions Should I Ask My District About Our Program?***

Does the district have a clearly written plan with a philosophy and goals specifically for gifted students?

Does the identification method use a number of different kinds of criteria?

Are teachers directly serving the gifted selected according to key characteristics and do they receive training and support?

Does the program offer multiple choices and resources across grade levels so that there are comprehensive opportunities for students?

Do the staff and administrators receive appropriate and on-going opportunities to understand gifted learners and their needs within the total school program?

Does the program have a parent education component and an on-going school/community awareness facet?

Do regular courses and curricula include a method of meeting the needs of gifted students within the school-wide framework?

Is there an emphasis on problem solving, higher-level thought process, inquiry-based discussion, and student generated high quality products?

Does the program address the social and emotional needs which are particular to gifted students?

## ***What Is The Law?***

Each school district shall incorporate gifted and talented programming into its comprehensive school improvement plan as required by Iowa Code section 257.43.

The comprehensive school improvement plan shall include the following gifted and talented program provisions: valid and systematic procedures, including multiple selection criteria for identifying gifted and talented students from the total student population; goals and performance measures; a qualitatively differentiated program to meet the students' cognitive and affective needs; staffing provisions; an in-service design; a budget; and qualifications of personnel administering the program.

Each school district shall review and evaluate its gifted and talented programming.

This subrule does not apply to accredited nonpublic schools.