

Formal affiliation with ITAG helps the state association to increase its influence with the Iowa Legislature. Numbers matter, and legislators listen when quantities of their constituents speak to an issue. Your impact in this area of endeavor can be profound.

With state affiliation, local chapters and chapter members gain input to ITAG; receive a state newsletter throughout the year; share information about programs, speakers and published materials; maintain relationship with the Department of Public Instruction; benefit from state-wide awareness and image.

Suggestions from NAGC on successfully maintaining a chapter . . .

Positive attitude toward school district

- Send newsletters to all buildings, principals, administrators, counselors, school board members and teachers of the gifted.
- Participate in meetings with interested school personnel.
- Attend school board meetings and make regular presentations of activities.
- Be supportive to the coordinator, and helpful in compiling materials.
- Volunteer in the gifted program.
- Visit the schools to encourage them to think about and expand their gifted programs.
- Provide brochures about the local chapter for parent/teacher conferences.
- Feature one school each meeting and invite the principal and contact representative.
- Participate in starting a gifted summer program.
- Work for legislation for gifted.

Provide service for members

- Have monthly meetings featuring speakers on subjects related to gifted education.
- Maintain a library of up-to-date materials about the gifted for members to check out.
- Provide all members with names, addresses and telephone numbers of key people in the local chapter and local school district program.
- Provide a handbook for parents.
- Send a newsletter to announce meetings, give new information and ideas for parents to do with their children.
- Keep members up-to-date on legislation.
- Support one another.
- Participate in volunteer organization.

Activities for children

- Plan special field trips.
- Sharing time for those in similar areas of interest.
- Speakers of interest to children.
- Parties and picnics just for fun.

Public Relations

- Submit articles regularly to the local newspaper. Announce every chapter meeting two weeks and one week in advance. Follow up each meeting with an article summarizing information covered.
- Encourage local radio and television stations to focus on the issue of gifted education by announcing upcoming events and giving coverage to the local chapter or school district.
- Raise money to be used for training volunteer leaders, sending teachers to conferences, and helping the coordinator go to seminars.
- Seek the cooperation of the League of Women Voters, Junior League, etc., in furthering interest in gifted programming.