



Aug. 8, 2013

Department: Capital Update

Congress at Home: Opportunity to Advocate for Gifted Students

Your Congressmen and women are home again for the summer recess. They will spend time meeting with constituents and gathering information for upcoming legislative activity, including approving a federal budget and revising K-12 education policy. You can have an impact on how gifted and talented students are viewed in Washington by educating those who represent you.

Your representatives need to hear from you about the importance of gifted and talented education for your child, your state, and this country's success. Members of Congress typically hold town meetings and attend other events where you will have the opportunity to ask questions such as how your Senator or Representative would change federal education policy to close the achievement gaps at top performance levels, or whether your Members of Congress see a connection between supporting gifted students K-12 and U.S. leadership in science and technology innovation? Or whether federal funds should be used to support high-ability students in low-income schools, where there are often no gifted education programs and services.

Linking high achieving and high-potential students to the big issues of the day, such as competitiveness, employment in the STEM professions, teacher training, equity issues, and achievement gaps is a great way to match your concerns with your elected officials' priorities, helping them to see that serving gifted students is more than a classroom issue.

As you talk with officials, we hope you will call attention to the [Talent Act \(S.512 and H.R. 2338\)](#) and ask them to cosponsor the legislation. The Act provides several ways to support high-ability students including through attention to students in Title I schools, reporting gifted student achievement, and using federal teacher training funds to enable more teachers to respond to the needs of advanced students. Securing cosponsors for the TALENT Act shows Congressional leaders that there is support for this population of learners, opening doors for discussion and eventually policies that support their needs.

For suggestions and information on other ways to reach out to your representatives, visit [NAGC's Communication Tools for Advocacy](#). To read examples of how we've linked issues, including the TALENT Act, to the needs of gifted students, be sure to visit [Advocacy in the News](#).

Now's the chance to teach during recess!

