

Dear [Senator or Representative],

Please make reinstating gifted funding a budget priority this year. Gifted classrooms in Arizona have not been funded since FY2009. This legislative session, parents, educators, and legislators have requested a one-time \$500,000 grant to fund the gifted programs already in statute. Can we count on your support?

Some have said that gifted students will be fine on their own, but we know this is not always the case. In fact, gifted students disproportionately drop out of high school. For those who stay in school, they are more likely to underachieve, particularly when gifted students are not identified or supported in the classroom.

Arizona needs robust gifted programs to keep our gifted students and families in the state and avoid the "bright flight" of our gifted families to states where their needs can be met. This funding would train teachers to identify gifted students and support those students in the classroom.

Representative Carter and Senator Dial have made gifted funding a budget priority.

The following Republican Legislators have also voiced their support for the reinstatement of gifted funding in this year's budget:

Sen. Jeff Dial

Sen. Sylvia Allen

Sen. Don Shooter

Sen. Steve Pierce

Sen. Carlyle Begay

Sen. Bob Worsley

Rep. Heather Carter

Rep. Russell "Rusty" Bowers

Rep. Jill Norgaard

Rep. Kate Brophy McGee

Rep. Doug Coleman

Arizona's 89,000 currently identified gifted students and their parents appreciate your support.

Sincerely,