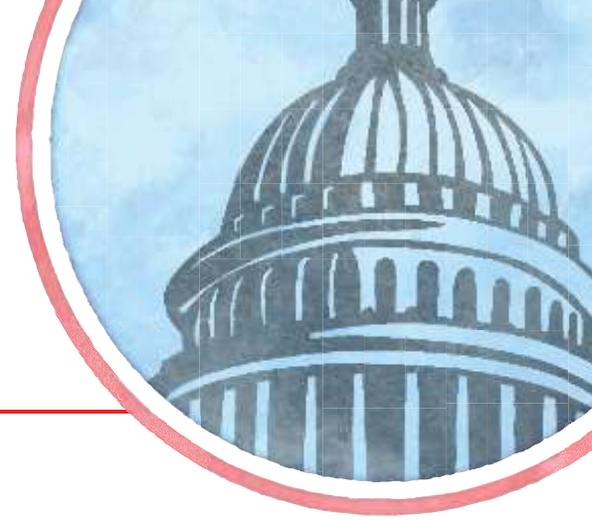


ISSUE BRIEF



Gifted Education

RECOMMENDATIONS

CEC urges Congress to:

- **Support an investment of \$20 million for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act to support research and development in identifying and serving students with gifts and talents, particularly from underserved populations.**
- **Support legislative policies which focus on underserved populations, appropriate assessments and accountability systems, expanded professional development, and emphasis on research and dissemination.**

BACKGROUND

There is a clear national need to develop the talent of the more than 3 million high-ability learners in the United States, whose performance is falling behind that of students in other industrialized nations. It is well documented that students with gifts and talents have learning needs requiring specialized educational services if they are to reach their potential.

Unfortunately, a lack of federal investment in this population means that access to these services depends solely on state and local funds, which is highly variable and unpredictable.

The students hurt most through this scenario are those high-potential students in underserved urban and rural districts who go unidentified and unserved. This underinvestment in excellence has resulted in a new and widening achievement gap—the gap between minority

and economically disadvantaged students who are gifted and talented and their more advantaged, high-ability peers.

Researchers have documented a growing gap on both statewide assessments and on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) that, at current achievement rates, will take decades to close.

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act (Javits) was first passed by Congress in 1988 as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and was most recently reauthorized through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to support the development of talent in U. S. schools.

The purpose of the Javits Act is to orchestrate a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities that build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students.

- The Javits Act focuses resources on identifying and serving students who are traditionally underrepresented in gifted and talented programs, particularly minority, economically disadvantaged, English language learners, and students with disabilities, to help reduce gaps in achievement and to encourage the establishment of equal educational opportunities for all students.
- The Javits Act funds a National Research and Development Center for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children and Youth, which conducts a focused program of research that includes an exploratory study, an impact evaluation, and leadership and outreach activities to ensure that the research informs education practice.

The Javits Act, like other authorized federal grant programs, must be funded each year by Congress.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2017 appropriations bill for the departments of Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education, on June 9, 2016. The bill included \$12 million for the Javits Act, the same amount of funding as was received in 2016.

The House Appropriations Committee has not yet released a FY 2017 appropriations bill for Labor/HHS/Education programs.

The future of our students and the nation's future competitiveness rely on federal leadership that addresses the "excellence gap."

CEC supports an investment of \$20 million for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Act.