

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am grateful that you are considering legislation to address the needs of high ability children. As a teacher and a parent, I am concerned about the needs of these children being continually ignored. I was recently told by my school district's administration that 60 % the focus of my instruction should be on teaching lower ability children and 40% should be focused on typical children. As the parent of a high ability child, I was appalled that my public school district was directing me to ignore the needs of high ability children. Meeting the needs of older students is important, but I think it is even more imperative that younger students be challenged in their classrooms. Not only is too much time wasted "teaching" these students skills they already know, schools run the risk of turning these students off to school and never tapping their cognitive abilities. CAG seems to be the only organized association trying to meet the needs of these children. Please consider carefully any of their proposals.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Schnee