

**SB 1000: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ACADEMICALLY GIFTED ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM**

I am both happy and excited to learn that the state of Connecticut is on a path to improving education for gifted children. As a parent of a highly gifted daughter, I have dealt with both the emotional, academic, and financial challenges of raising a child that is several grade levels above her peers. The standard course of study found in our schools is extremely lacking and deprives the gifted child of reaching his/her full potential. I personally have to provide my daughter with additional instruction outside of school in order to satisfy her curiosity and development. In the summers, she is sent to a special school for the gifted (out of this state) as there is no school within a commutable distance that she could attend during the school year. I am lucky that we can provide our daughter with special enrichment opportunities as I know that this is not possible for many families with gifted children who cannot afford the high tuitions. It is really sad to know that so many gifted children are not getting the education they deserve.

In the future I would like to see opportunities for gifted children in every school in our state. Children should be allowed to accelerate at their own pace and not kept back just because they are a certain age. In addition, courses should reflect the changing global economy and include languages for children beginning in kindergarten. Computer programming, science and technology should not take a back seat to sports. All gifted children should be supported so that they, in turn, can share their abilities with the world.

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