

Hello I am Michele Walworth from Griswold, CT. My 11 year old son was recently tested and found Gifted and Talented. Currently under CT Law we are required to recognize a gifted child, but we do not have to do anything about it. This is foolish: we are watching our greatest assets slip through our fingers if we do not encourage further learning for these students, have a school advocate available to the parents to help them navigate the G&T challenges, emotional and social needs of these students and help find and ENCOURAGE further programming inside and outside of school for our G&T kids.

SB 1055 also states that one of the goals is: *using technology to extend and advance curriculum materials to provide instruction to gifted and talented students without promoting such students to higher grade levels.*

Currently my school offers.. nothing. "If" a particular teacher feels like it, has the time and the enthusiasm they will try to provide a bit more differentiated learning experience for the gifted student.. but once again they don't have to. And obviously as you realize bouncing kids up a grade is NOT the answer due to social concerns. More advanced curriculum and technology IS the answer to furthering these students and CHALLENGING them.

We are discouraging some of our most dynamic and enthusiastic learners. It's time for a CHANGE. And what I don't want to hear anymore from any school system is 'it's not in our budget, and we aren't required by law to provide this for you', as I heard at the PPT. What a shame if we continue to run our schools this way.

Sincerely
Michele Walworth
Griswold, CT