

Gifted Education in Maryland – Did You Know?

Legislation - Did You Know?

The **Annotated Code of Maryland §8-201** defines Gifted and Talented students and **§8-202** finds that:

- “A gifted and talented student needs **different services** beyond those normally provided by the regular school program.”
- “Gifted and talented students are to be **found in youth from all cultural groups**, across all economic strata and in all areas of human endeavor.”

The **Bridge to Excellence legislation §5-401** requires that each county submit a **Master Plan** that “shall include goals, objectives and strategies regarding the performance of Gifted and Talented students”.

Students – Did You Know?

The most common myth about Gifted Education is that gifted students will succeed without special programs, however:

- Gifted students can be **twice exceptional** – both gifted and learning disabled.
- High-performing **low income students** drop out of high school at twice the rate of higher income peers (*The Achievement Trap*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation)

Funding – Did You Know?

The **only** state funds dedicated to Gifted and Talented students are for the Maryland Summer Centers program, and the allocation of \$459,000 has not increased during the 41 years of the program.

The Jacob K. Javits Grant is the **only federal grant** dedicated to Gifted and Talented Education. In 2005, Maryland received a three year Javits grant of \$680,000 to fund the Primary Talent Development Program. However, the President has eliminated the Javits program from the 2009 budget.

Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) – Did You Know?

Eighty three percent of the thousands of high paying jobs coming to Maryland will require a **Bachelor’s degree** or higher. The percentage of jobs requiring a **Doctorate will double**. BRAC employees want to know about Maryland school system services for Gifted and Talented students.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) – Did You Know?

None of the \$1.9 million dollars allocated for STEM grants in the FY 2008 budget are specifically designated for Gifted and Talented students.