



Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education
A Parent/Professional Advocacy Group

To ensure that the academic, social and emotional needs of all children having special gifts and talents are met. It is our belief that it is the basic right of every child to experience the joy of learning each day.

February 10, 2009

ACT NOW TO SAVE THE MARYLAND SUMMER CENTERS
FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

WHY IS ACTION NEEDED NOW? Funding for the Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students has been cut from the FY 2010 Maryland State Department of Education Budget. Unless funding is restored, there will be no Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students in the summer of 2010.

Action is needed immediately because the Maryland General Assembly is working now on the Governor's FY 2010 budget. We need to contact our legislators NOW to urge them to work to restore funding for the Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students (MSCs) to the FY 2010 Maryland State Department of Education Headquarters Budget.

Contact your State Senator and Members of the House of Delegates to urge them to work to have funding for the Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students restored to the Maryland State Department of Education FY 2010 budget.

Tell them that:

- Funding for the Maryland Summer Centers for Gifted and Talented Students was cut from the Governor's FY 2010 Maryland State Department of Education budget;
- The Maryland Summer Centers meet a real need in serving gifted and talented students across the State of Maryland;
- The MSC experience is sometimes the ONLY opportunity for GT students to be challenged academically, especially when the child comes from a school district that does not have a strong gifted and talented program;
- MSCs have been the cornerstone of Maryland's service to gifted and talented students for 42 years and should not be eliminated, even in this period of tight budget constraints.

How to contact your State Senator or Delegate:

1. The most effective way to get support is to visit your State Senator or Delegate's office in person. If you cannot do that:

2. Contact your State legislators via email:

Go to www.mlis.state.md.us; Then click on "Contact...a Legislator";

Be sure to include your name, address, phone, and email address in the body of the email message.

3. Contact your State legislators via US Mail:

Write to your State Senator:

[Name of Senator]
Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Write to your Delegates:

[Name of Delegate}
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis Maryland 21401-1912

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MARYLAND SUMMER CENTERS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED FACTS

- The MSCs were established in 1966 “...to provide opportunities for Maryland’s gifted and talented students to work with like-minded peers in an area of ability and interest. Many participants have reported these programs to be a life-changing experience, meeting for the first time others with interests and abilities like their own and forming lasting friendships.”
- MSCs are held across the state and have been sponsored by school districts, Maryland institutions of higher education, non-profit community organizations, and partnerships between these entities.
- MSCs in recent years have served between 780-1050 students, grades 4 - 12 in approximately 16 – 20 Centers.
- The total budget for the MSCs is approximately \$450,000, a figure that has remained constant for 42 years. The Centers were cut \$46,000.00 for 2009.
- Students pay tuition to attend the MSCs, and financial assistance is available to attend every center.

LET’S WRITE TO HELP OUR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS!

Sincerely,

Laura Carriere, *President*
Jolynn Chadwick, *Vice-President*
Rick Tyler, *Legislative Liaison & Past President*

Joan Cable, *Secretary*
Phil Appolonia, *Treasurer*