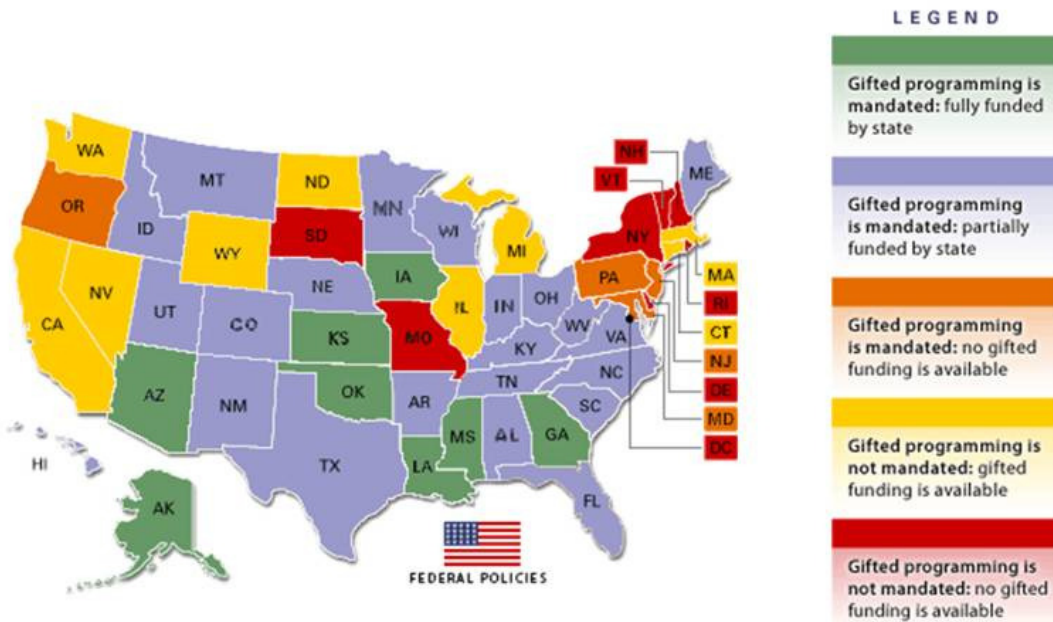


LACK OF GIFTED EDUCATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Davidson Institute's GT-Cybersource at
http://www.gt-cybersource.org/StatePolicy.aspx?NavID=4_0



STANDS OUT!

History of Gifted Education In South Dakota

- South Dakota began to serve gifted students in 1978-79, with 169 identified that first year. The program grew to “serving in excess of 4,000, as of the December 1, 1985 count” as reported by Bob Geigle, state director of Gifted and Talented Programs at the time.
- In the 1980’s, all school districts were required to serve their high ability students, including a certified instructor, identification, curriculum modifications, and an Individualized Education Plan. Under the umbrella of special education, gifted education followed the same laws and received federal funding.
- The 1989 South Dakota Legislature passed legislation moving gifted education out of special education into school accreditation. School districts were still required to serve students, maintain a certified teacher, maintain an appeal process, required curriculum modifications in an Individualized Education Plan, annual report and state aid application.
- With the 1995 South Dakota Legislative Session, the repeal of categorical aid impacted gifted education. In January 1997, the gifted education budget of \$1,135,000 was eliminated. Since 1997, South Dakota has not had a gifted education budget.
- Grants of \$5,000 were also eliminated during the 1995 Legislative Session that benefited the Destination Imagination Program (formerly Odyssey of the Mind) and the Future Problem Solving Program. Both of these programs have experienced significant drops in participation by school districts across South Dakota, due to this major cut in funding.
- Today, maintaining a gifted education program in South Dakota school districts has become a local decision. State law does not require them to identify gifted students or provide these students with access to appropriate programming. South Dakota school districts receive no specially-designated funds from the state or federal government for support of gifted education.

Gifted Education in South Dakota and Surrounding States

	SD	ND	WY	MN	IA	NE	MT
Does gifted education legislation exist?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does the legislation mandate that gifted students be served?	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is there funding for gifted programs for the 2006-2007 school year?	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Was there funding for gifted programs for the 2005-2006 school year?	No	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Was there funding for gifted programs for the 2004-2005 school year?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Yes
Are gifted students identified by mandate?	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does legislation provide for an education program matched to the student's abilities?	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is there legislation that mandates specialized training in gifted education for teachers of gifted students?	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Are there colleges/universities in the state that offer courses and/or degrees in gifted education?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Source: Davidson Institute's GT-Cybersource at http://www.gt-cybersource.org/StatePolicyDetails.aspx?StateCode=10042&NavID=4_0

South Dakota Gifted Education Fact Sheet

Approximately 91% of public school districts in South Dakota have cut or eliminated gifted positions and/or programming in the last 10 years due to budget issues. Progress by high ability students has been impacted significantly by NCLB. Gifted education programs are in only 17 public school districts. Funding is provided for Native American gifted and talented students in the BIE, Tribal and Native American Contract Schools on the reservations in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Governors Camp, the only state program targeting high achieving middle school students, has been held each summer at USD since 1984. The program brings students throughout the state together for enrichment classes and social interactions who may or may not have a gifted program in their school district. This event is held for only one week during the summer and is supported with state funds.

Programs funded by the state for high ability students at the high school level are the virtual school, Advanced Placement classes/testing and online Advanced Placement courses.

From the 1980's to 2001, annual conferences for gifted education were held to bring regular and gifted education teachers and parents together to learn and meet the needs of these students. In 2003, Dr. Tim Duggan began the Institute for Teachers of Gifted Youth at the University of South Dakota. In July 2008, the 6th Annual Institute for Teachers was held at USD.

Communication between members had included a quarterly newsletter, regional meetings, and a parent newsletter. With the repeal of categorical aid in 1997, South Dakota also lost the state director of gifted education position. This communication and network no longer exists.

For more information on Gifted Education in South Dakota, check out the South Dakota Association for Gifted Children website at www.sd-agc.org