

NAGC Position Papers: Guidelines for Development

Overview

In its role as the national organization representing the views of its members and key stakeholders, as well as the needs of high-ability learners, NAGC is called upon to take official positions on issues of significance to the field and to gifted and talented students.

Position papers provide the association's official position on a topic and include a call to action such as "NAGC supports (or encourages, recommends) [action]." Because these documents represent the official view of NAGC, they require approval by the NAGC Board of Directors and do not identify an individual author or authors.

The primary audiences for NAGC position papers are NAGC members and other gifted education supporters, media, legislators and other elected officials, and school leaders, including administrators and general educators.

Position Statement Development Process

Position statements are initiated by the Board of Directors with a specific call for action in mind. With oversight from the Governance Secretary, these documents are more proactive than reactive, as needs are identified by the Board or leaders in the field. As the initial step, a charge is created and the Board identifies an author/expert to assign the writing task that will convey the intended position. Once drafted, the statement is reviewed and edited at the national office for compliance with position statement requirements. The NAGC Publications Committee provides additional review and an outside expert on the topic may be asked to review the final document.. Once complete, the Governance Secretary ensures that the position is voted on by the Board. If approved, the membership is notified and the position is posted on the NAGC website and circulated to other national education associations as appropriate.

Elements of a Position Paper

An NAGC position paper, no more than two pages in length, should include the following elements:

1. Introduction, which explains why a position statement on the topic is needed.
2. A discussion (2-4 paragraphs) about how the issue or topic affects gifted children, with statistics or other research to support the case.
3. A proposed solution or alternate approach, including how that affects gifted children.
4. A conclusion that restates the action NAGC proposes.
5. A brief section that includes a few references as additional information for readers.