



National Association for Gifted Children  
1707 L Street, NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 785-4268  
[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Jacqueline Grady

202-312-7009/[jacqueline.grady@bakerd.com](mailto:jacqueline.grady@bakerd.com)

## **NAGC and Education Deans Urge Department to Track Gifted Ed Instruction**

WASHINGTON (June 9) -- The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) along with deans of 12 leading schools of education are urging the U.S. Department of Education to hold institutions of higher education accountable for including the needs of gifted and talented children in the education instruction that colleges and universities provide to teacher candidates.

In a letter released today, the group is proposing measures that would ensure that schools of education provide gifted education-focused instruction to all teacher candidates, as required by recent changes in the Higher Education Opportunities Act. Currently, the data collection tools for quality teacher training do not address the amount of instruction in gifted education provided to our future teachers.

"We strongly believe that teachers must be fully prepared to educate all of the students in their classrooms. Without specific instruction on the unique learning needs of gifted students, this is simply not possible," said Del Siegle, president of NAGC. "Like other students, in order to succeed, gifted children need instruction that is tailored to their educational needs, delivered by teachers who understand their learning differences."

Added Sam Evans, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Western Kentucky University, "As educators of tomorrow's teachers, our institutions must do all we can to ensure these men and women are well prepared to meet the needs of all students. We urge the Department to strongly consider making this much needed change."

The suggested clarifications and additions are being submitted in response to a proposed information collection request by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) last April.

###