



[Preparing Future Teachers to Challenge the Brightest Students](#)

August 20th, 2008

Too often we pass legislation that promises to enhance America's role as a global competitor without addressing the strongest pathway to success – challenging our nation's brightest students. Last week President Bush signed into law the latest reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, first passed in 1965 to support our nation's colleges and universities and provide financial assistance for students in higher education. The lengthy bill contains a small yet critical provision that will require Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant recipients to train prospective teachers to meet the specific learning needs of all students, explicitly including those with gifts and talents. This provision—led by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)—is only the first step to better educating students with gifts and talents.

There are an estimated 3 million students with gifts and talents in the United States; yet in 2007, less than 3 cents out of every 100 federal dollars spent on K-12 education went to meeting their needs. Resources in most states are sparse, if they exist at all, leaving many schools ill-equipped to address the learning needs of gifted students, and therefore depleting our nation of its future talent.

It is a widely accepted notion that well-prepared teachers have a positive impact on student learning. Thanks to Senator Grassley's leadership, a new crop of teachers will learn how to effectively instruct students with gifts and talents, providing these youngsters with the challenging curriculum they need to remain engaged and motivated. Today's investment yields tomorrow's success.

[Permalink](#) | [Comment on this post \(0\)](#)

By **The Council for Exceptional Children**

This entry was posted on Wednesday, August 20th, 2008 at 9:42 am and is filed under [Politics](#) .