### GIFTED ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

### 2016 State Advocacy Agenda

The Gifted Association of Missouri requests your advocacy on the following issues:

**FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Support legislation to increase funding for gifted education programs.**

1. Support legislation that modifies the elementary and secondary education funding formula by adding an additional weight for gifted education. "Gifted Education Pupil Count" is defined as the number of students who qualify as "gifted" under section 162.675 and who are enrolled and have participated in a school district's state approved gifted education program by June first for the immediately preceding academic year.

## Support legislation that re-establishes a payment adjustment for schools that eliminate or decrease enrollment in state approved gifted programs. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, a school district will incur a reduction in funding if it experiences a decrease in its state approved gifted program enrollment of more than 20%. If a school district experiences a decrease of 20% or more in its state approved gifted program enrollment, an amount equal to the product of the difference between the number of students enrolled in the state approved gifted program in the current school year and the number of students enrolled in the previous school year multiplied by $680 must be subtracted from the school district's current year payment amount.

1. Support legislation that mandates every school in Missouri provide state approved gifted education programs for students identified as “gifted” under section 162.675 and that all program services are provided by teachers with a valid certification in gifted education.

## MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY & MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY

**Support state funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy and Missouri Fine Arts Academy for June, 2017. The State Legislature & Governor appropriated $750,000 for the June, 2016 academies.**

* The Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program at MU for 330 high school juniors who are academically gifted;
* The Fine Arts Academy is a three-week residential program at MSU for 150 rising high school juniors and seniors who are gifted in the arts.

**MISSOURI SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA FUNDING**

Support increased funding for the Missouri School Foundation Formula. Support $3.5 billion appropriation in House Bill 2 for the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

**OTHER GIFTED FACTS & FIGURES**

* $24,870,104 was appropriated for gifted education in FY2006. There were 295 school districts with state approved gifted programs. In FY2007, this amount was rolled into the new foundation formula. Without this line item providing earmarked funding for state approved gifted programs, those funds can be spent on other programs, and there are now only 223 school districts offering state approved gifted programs.

If you have questions, please contact GAM’s Governmental Consultant, Kyna Iman, at kynaiman@earthlink.net

**2016 GAM DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 10:45 AM**