



GAM 2020 STUDENT CONTEST *Legislative Letter Contest*

Contest Description: The GAM 2020 Student Contest, **Legislative Letter Contest**, is a challenge to gifted students **grades 3-8** in Missouri to write a letter of support for one of the GAM sponsored pieces of legislation in the 2020 session. These are:

House Bill 1317 and Senate Bill 645 -- PROVISIONS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

Sponsored by Representative Chrissy Sommer and Senator Denny Hoskins

This bill requires school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of 350 or more students are required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education. Any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services.

YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ON THE BILLS HERE:

<https://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills201/hlrbillspdf/3034H.02I.pdf>

https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=26838018

What to do: The contest will officially be released on the GAM website, www.mogam.org on JANUARY 13, 2020. First, go to www.mogam.org and download this document, which includes the student release statement on page 2. Next, you will create an individual letter (no groups or teams). This letter should be in support of GAM legislation and follow the following criteria:

1. The letter is to be written to the student's legislator in the district in which they live.
2. The letter should be informative and provide a good understanding of the bill the student is in support of, what the bill means, and what that bill will mean for gifted programs in the state of Missouri.
3. The letter should include how this bill will impact them and gifted students across the state of Missouri. The letter should be addressed to the student's legislator and will be printed and delivered to the legislator after the contest.

The student should use their name and grade, and is encouraged to provide their address on the letter because they might receive a letter back from their legislator, but this is not required for submission.

When & how to submit: SUBMIT THE LETTER AS A PDF ATTACHMENT ONLY, DO NOT SHARE THROUGH GOOGLE DRIVE, ONLY AS AN ATTACHMENT to:

dragonim@ritenourschools.org

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 AT 3PM CST. THIS IS THE FINAL DEADLINE, ANY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AFTER FEBRUARY 14, 2020 AT 3PM CST WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Divisions

ELEMENTARY GRADES 3-5

SECONDARY GRADES 6-8

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT CONTEST, NO GROUPS, PLEASE GO BY THE GRADE OF THE CHILD ON THE SUBMISSION DATE, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 AT 3PM CST.

Release Form

In order to participate in this contest, the student must follow this release agreement. This agreement can be kept on file with the student. By entering this contest, the student agrees:

The student participating in this contest does: hereby authorize the Gifted Association of Missouri to use, reproduce, and/or publish writings, drawings, photographs, and/or video that was created by me without compensation. The student understands this material may be used in GAM's publications, promotional materials, and website. The student understands that this material will be used to promote gifted education and/or the Gifted Association of Missouri. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my specific rescission of this authorization. The student understands that GAM may publish my name and school information for the purposes of recognition of the material submitted to GAM for the various student contests.

***WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AND AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN AT GAM DAY
AT THE CAPITOL IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020!***

**ALL CONTEST INFORMATION IS ON THE GAM WEBSITE: mogam.org
ALL CONTEST SUBMISSIONS AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
Dr. Michael Dragoni, GAM Legislative Chairperson,
dragonim@ritenourschools.org**

**ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE ELECTRONIC ONLY AND SHARED ONLY AS A PDF
EMAIL ATTACHMENT! EMAIL FOR QUESTIONS AND SENDING LETTERS:
dragonim@ritenourschools.org**