



# G A G E

## Gwinnett Alliance for Gifted Education

SPRING 2009

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Linda Andrews, the Gifted Education Specialist at the GADOE is retiring after 20 years of service.
- GAGE Camp at Winn-Holt's application deadline is May 18.
- GAGE recognized students for excellence.

## CREATIVELY TEACHING—A Letter From Tina Gay

President of GAGE and Gifted Program Teacher—Taylor Elementary

“How can we expect kids to be creative without knowing what creativity is?” This was the opening question for Laura Magner’s presentation at K. E. Taylor E.S on Thursday, March 26, 2009. In this after school teacher workshop, Mrs. Magner explained what creativity is and what it isn’t. She emphasized that creativity should be taught just like any other “subject” in school—math, language arts, science, social studies, etc.

Using a captivating photo in her slideshow, she illustrated that we can be creative no matter where we are—we just need to look at things in a new way. For example, she

showed a picture of a “kudzu creature” and asked the teachers in attendance what they saw when they looked at the photo.

Mrs. Magner also emphasized idea generation. She explained that when students are told to write a story and the teacher wants descriptive details, the students should draw a picture after writing their stories. They should look at the picture to see if all the details in the picture are described in the story and if the story details are included in the artwork.

Mrs. Magner created the Magner Machine, an interactive

math tool for her students. Using a shower curtain, she drew a huge scale model of a calculator on the shower curtain. Her students solve math problems by jumping on the “on” button and then jumping on the calculator buttons to correctly work the problem and show the answer. She has used this to convert fractions to decimals, convert percentages to decimals, rounding numbers in the millions to the nearest 100, etc.

Another way, she uses shower curtains creatively is the “Algebra Dance” in which the shower curtain is transformed into an integer number line. She plays an upbeat song and

## NOTES FROM ANNETTE

GCPS Director, Accelerated Programs and Gifted Education

On January 8, 2009, the State Board of Education approved Gwinnett County Public Schools’ IE<sup>2</sup> Strategic Plan. This five year contract, made possible by Governor Sonny Perdue’s Investing in Educational Excellence (IE<sup>2</sup>) legislation, provides the school system with more local control regarding important education decisions and expenditures. The expected outcome of this long-desired flexibility is in-

creased student achievement and more effective educational opportunities. According to State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox, “This contract is the place where flexibility and accountability meet for the benefit of students.” Gwinnett is the first system in the state to pursue the IE<sup>2</sup> Strategic Plan, and approval was granted unanimously by the State Board.

Gwinnett County’s IE<sup>2</sup> Strategic

Plan goes into effect for the 2009-2010 school year. Through this contract, many decisions, including those related to Gifted Education, are made in the local clusters by the local school principals. Please contact the local school principal with any specific questions. You may also visit the Gwinnett County Public Schools’ webpage (<http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us>) for additional information.

**GET INVOLVED TO SAVE GIFTED EDUCATION SPECIALIST**

After twenty years of service to gifted children, Linda Andrews, Gifted Education Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education is retiring effective June 1, 2009. **We cannot lose the Gifted Education Specialist position at the DOE** - there are over 150,000 identified gifted students in the state that earn over 230 million FTE dollars. Programs designed to meet their special needs must be overseen by someone knowledgeable of such needs and Rule 160-4-2-.38 that governs these programs.

**We must take action.** We ask that you immediately contact the offices listed below or your local state representative or state senate member with calls, faxes, emails, visits, etc. **to make sure that this position is posted and filled as soon as possible.** Emphasize the importance of the Gifted Education Specialist - support to systems regarding rules and regulations - class size, FTE funding, delivery models, curriculum development, etc. Inform them that gifted education's effectiveness has been documented in schools with widely differing socioeconomic levels and such effectiveness hinges on the support provided by the state's (DOE) Gifted Education Specialist.

To think that in the twenty-first century, we would teeter on the brink of losing our one voice in the state. Thank you for your support of gifted children in Georgia!

Sincerely,

Gyimah Whitaker

**1 - Superintendent Kathy Cox**  
**state.superintendent@doe.k12.ga.us**

**Phone:** (404) 656-2800  
**Fax:** (404) 651-6867

**2 - Governor Sonny Perdue**  
via **Web Form.**

**Phone:** (404) 656-1776  
**Fax:** (404) 657-7332

**3 - Lt. Governor Casey Cagle**  
via **Web Form.**

**Phone:** (404) 656-5030  
**Fax:** (404) 656-6739

**4. Senate Education**  
**Committee Members:**

Dan Weber, Dunwoody - Chair  
404.463.2260  
404.463.4161  
dan.weber@senate.ga.gov  
Dan Moody, Alpharetta - Vice  
Chair  
404.463.8055  
404.651.6768  
dan.moody@senate.ga.gov  
Jim Butterworth, Cornelia  
404-463-5257  
404.463.2535  
jim.butterworth@senate.ga.gov  
Don Thomas, Dalton - Secretary  
404.656.6436  
404.651.6767  
don.thomas@senate.ga.gov  
Don Balfour, Snellville  
404-656-0095

404.656.6581  
don.balfour@senate.ga.gov  
Bill Jackson, Appling  
404.656.5114  
404.657.0797  
bill.jackson@senate.ga.gov  
Vincent Fort, Atlanta  
404.656.5091  
404.657.7266  
vincent.fort@senate.ga.gov  
Eric Johnson, Savannah - Ex  
Officio  
404.656.5109  
404.657.9727  
eric.johnson@senate.ga.gov  
Gail Buckner, Jonesboro  
404.656.7586  
404.657.9728  
gail.buckner@senate.ga.gov  
Ron Ramsey, Decatur  
404.463.2598  
404.463.1386  
ron.ramsey@senate.ga.gov  
Horacea Tate, Atlanta  
404.463.8053  
404.463.7783  
horacena.tate@senate.ga.gov  
Tommie Williams, Lyons  
404.656.0089  
404.463.5220  
tommie.williams@senate.ga.gov  
Freddie Sims, Dawson  
404.463.5259  
404.657.7266  
freddie.sims@senate.ga.gov

**5 - House Education**

**Committee Members;**

Brooks Coleman, Duluth - Chair  
404.656.9210  
brooks.coleman@house.ga.gov  
Fran Millar, Dunwoody - Vice-  
chair  
404.656.5064  
fran.millar@house.ga.gov  
Tommy Benton, Jefferson -  
Secretary  
404.656.0177  
tommy.benton@house.ga.gov  
Kathy Ashe, Fulton  
404.656.0116  
kathyashe56@mindspring.com  
David Casas, Lilburn  
404.656.0254  
david.casas@mindspring.com  
Rich Austin, Habersham  
404.656.0287  
rick.austin@house.ga.gov  
Tom Dickson, Cahuta  
404.656.0202  
tom.dickson@house.ga.gov  
Hugh Floyd, Norcross  
404.656.0314  
hugh.floyd@house.ga.gov  
Doug Holt, Social Circle  
404.656.0152  
doug.holt@house.ga.gov  
Penny Houston, Nashville  
404.656.0202  
penny.houston@house.ga.gov  
Paul Battles, -Bartow  
404.656.0109  
paul.battles@house.ga.gov  
Amy Carter, Lowndes

404.656.0325  
amy.carter@house.ga.gov  
Jan Jones, Alpharetta  
404.463.2247  
jan.jones@house.ga.gov  
Darryl Jordan, Riverdale  
404.656.0116  
darryl.jordan@house.ga.gov  
Mike Keown, Coolidge  
404.656.0177  
mike.keown@house.ga.gov  
Edward Lindsey, Atlanta  
404.656.0188  
edward.lindsey@house.ga.gov  
Howard Maxwell, Dallas  
404...656.3904  
howard.maxwell@house.ga.gov  
Alisha Thomas Morgan, Austell  
404.656.0109  
alisha.morgan@house.ga.gov  
Bobby, Sugar Hill  
404.656.0254  
bobby.reese@house.ga.gov  
Ed Setzler, Acworth  
404.656.0126  
ed.setzler@house.ga.gov  
Willie Talton, Warner Robins  
404.656.0254  
willie.talton@house.ga.gov  
Rob Teilhet, Smyrna  
404.656.0298  
rob.teilhet@house.ga.gov  
Brian Thomas, Lilburn  
404.656.0325  
brian.thomas@house.ga.gov  
Earnest "Coach" Williams,  
Avondale Estates  
404.656.0202  
earnest.williams@house.ga.gov

## SUMMER FUN SPONSORED BY GAGE

Gwinnett Alliance for Gifted Education & Georgia State University will be offering the Summer Institute for Scholars & Leaders. The camp will be the week of June 15-19 at Margaret Winn Holt Elementary (588 Old Snellville Hwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30045).

Class offerings this year are Simple Machines and Legos, Lego Robotics, Shark Frenzy, Roller Coaster Physics, Gizmos & Gadgets, Ocean Adventures, and Math Mysteries and Bubble Science. Classes are designed to challenge students at all levels (1<sup>st</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

Student cost/Tuition fee: \$175 per session, \$148.75 (15% discount) for GAGE members. There will be morning and afternoon sessions.

Enrollment is now taking place-Registration and class information can be found online. Remember to register by May 18.

<http://education.gsu.edu/saturdayschool/NewFolder/GAGE%202009/GAGE%20Daycamp.htm>

**Vicky Tettelbach**  
FOCUS Teacher  
Dacula Elementary

## GAGE GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

GAGE is proud to announce that three mini-grants of up to \$500.00 were awarded to Gwinnett County Public School teachers this year. Any GCPS educator who is a GAGE member is eligible for a mini-grant. Our three winners this year are:

**Kathy Traylor, Shiloh Middle School**  
**David Ulkins, Creekland Middle School**  
**Bill Lewis, Creekland Middle School**

Ms. Traylor's 7<sup>th</sup> grade gifted math students will benefit from the grant by having more Texas Instruments calculators. Mr. Ulkins' 8<sup>th</sup> grade gifted science students will use the grant money in a Science of Rocketry unit of study.

Mr. Lewis' 8<sup>th</sup> grade gifted students will study the Stock Market using these GAGE funds. David Ulkins of Creekland Middle writes: *"On behalf of the 8th grade PROBE students and teachers at Creekland Middle School, we would like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for GAGE's funding of our Rocketry kits. As teachers, we are not only responsible for educating these very bright and curious young people, but we must challenge them to think abstractly in terms of creative problem solving whenever possible. The rocket kits will allow students the ability to apply their thought processes to a practical problem. Because of the recent*



Azra S., Jonathan M., and Morgan G. enjoy rockets in Dr. Ulkins's class

*financial setback facing our nation, teachers have been digging deeper into their own wallets in order to present exciting, educational labs and activities for their students. Programs, such as the GAGE mini-grant help educators provide learning opportunities that bring book study to life!"*

## ANNUAL GAGE SUMMER FAIR

The 4<sup>th</sup> **Annual GAGE Summer Fair** was held on the evening of Tuesday, March 31 at the Instructional Service Center in Suwanee. This was an opportunity for ALL parents of gifted students in Gwinnett County to browse through informational booths for classes and camps offered in the metro Atlanta area this summer. We had over 30 organizations and universities participate this year, so parents could find enrichment opportunities for their elementary, middle, and high school students. Check out the list of the participants and their links on the GAGE website. <http://geocities.com/gwinnettgifted/> We hope to see everyone again at this grand event in March of next year.

*Chris Locke*  
Craig Elementary



## **GWINNETT ALLIANCE FOR GIFTED EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY**

The annual GAGE Awards Ceremony was on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Berkmar High School Auditorium. Each Gwinnett County School had the opportunity to recognize an Outstanding Gifted Student. Elementary, middle, and high schools selected one or more students from its gifted program who best represents the standards of excellence in effort and achievement for the gifted program. These students are:

**Elementary Schools**

Alcova Jordyn B.  
Alford Amy D.  
Arcado Anima S.  
Benefield Tatiana P.  
Britt , Sarah V.  
Brookwood Emma D.  
Brookwood Matthew E.  
Cedar Hill Courtni H.  
Chattahoochee David Z.  
Chesney Monica C.  
Cooper Brittney S.  
Corley Saba M.  
Craig Emma P.  
Dacula Madison G.  
Duncan Creek Kylie S.  
Dyer , (J.G.) Victoria H.  
Fort Daniel Kristen G.  
Freeman's Mill Michael S.  
Grayson Anna S.  
Harbins John G.  
Harmony Sammy S.  
Harris Shelby L.  
Harris Samantha G.  
Head Julia H.  
Hopkins Le P.  
Ivy Creek Akili D.  
Jackson Miriam M.  
Kanhoda Ashley B.  
Knight Sally H.  
Lawrenceville Alexander S.  
Level Creek Jonathan W.  
Lilburn Isaac R.  
Lovin Kaela Y.  
Magill Anna E.

Mason Jeong (Joanne) L.  
McKendree Megan D.  
Meadowcreek Jesus S.  
Minor Cynthia M.  
Mountain Park Brent B.  
Mulberry Cecilia S.  
Norcross Jovanna G.  
Norton Jassmini M.  
Parsons Christine S.  
Partee Cameryn Simone F.  
Patrick Katie F.  
Peachtree Kira C.  
Pharr Jason Q.  
Puckett's Mill Katie H.  
Riverside Lauren J.  
Riverside Caroline D.  
Rock Springs Caitlin P.  
Rock Springs Madison B.  
Rock Springs Anna D.  
Rockbridge Mariko S.  
Rosebud Sienna M.  
Shiloh Ben T.  
Simonton Gisselle B.  
Simonton Brian C.  
Simpson Ryan L.  
Stripling Osiel O.  
Sugar Hill Lindsay V.  
Suwane Jacob K.  
Sycamore Gloria C.  
Taylor Lucy M.  
Trip Annabella H.  
Walnut Grove Matthew H.  
Winn Holt Rebecca T.

**Middle Schools**

Berkmar Mitra K.  
Crews Jackson T.  
Dacula Steven J.  
Duluth Nolan G.  
Five Forks Aaron R.  
Hull Kayuri B.  
Jones Kylie B.  
Lanier Rachel K.  
Lilburn Duyen V.  
McConnell Jazmin M.  
Osborne Marissa B.  
Pinckneyville Allison F.  
Radloff Shelby B.  
Richards Stephanie D.  
Shiloh Kevin E.  
Sweetwater Alyson P.

**High Schools**

Berkmar . Carter O.  
Brookwood Mark D.  
Central Gwinnett Daniel H.  
Dacula Thomas "Slay" R.  
Duluth Yanfeng (Roger) O.  
Duluth Yuanrui (Serena) Z.  
Grayson Katie Z.  
Mill Creek Emily B.  
Parkview Siddhartha Datta R.  
Peachtree Ridge Nicholas K.  
Shiloh H.S. Everton Lloyd B., Jr.  
South Gwinnett Amanda W..

**Charter School**

Gwinnett School of Math, Science, &  
Tech. Daniel P.

The Ruth Cowan Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to seven graduating seniors to broaden their educational opportunities at a college of their choice. These students were selected based on teachers recommendations, grades, contributions to the community, and academic achievements in gifted education.

**Senior Scholarship Recipients**

Yanfeng (Roger) O., Duluth High  
Rae "Sharon" R., Central Gwinnett High  
Sumathee (Sumi) S., Parkview High  
Manonh S. Meadowcreek High  
Leah W., South Gwinnett High  
Taylor W., Peachtree Ridge High  
Yuanrui (Serena) Z., Duluth High

**GEORGIA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM  
2008-2009 STATE BOWL WINNERS**

Gwinnett teams were well represented in qualifying to participate in the state bowl.... and in bringing home awards. Below are the winners in each of these categories. If you are interested in learning more about Future Problem Solving, please let Annette Eger know and we can talk about how you can participate next year.

**TEAM PROBLEM SOLVING**

**Junior Division- grades 4-6**

**Second Place Simpson E.S.**

Coach: Kathy Russo  
Alexandra K., Andrew T., Caroline R.  
Jake K.

**Third Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Carol Byess  
Julien G., Sarah H.,  
Elizabeth W., Lauren H.

**Fourth Place Riverside E.S.**

Coaches: Julie Denman & Brenda  
Sizemore  
Kelsey S., Anav M., Aditi A., Alex W.

**Middle Division**

**First Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Gary Neff  
Allison F., Robert H., Priscilla M.  
Emma R.

**Third Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Carol Byess  
Patrick A., Maddie E., Mark G.

**INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM SOLVING**

**Junior Division**

**First Place Victoria L.**

Riverside E.S.  
Coaches: Lisa Vaughn & Marion  
Sebastian

**Second Place Shelly F.**

Pinckneyville M.S.  
Coach: Carol Byess

**TEAM ACTION PLAN**

**Junior Division**

**Second Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Carol Byess  
Julien G., Sarah H., Elizabeth W.,

Lauren H.

**Middle Division**

**First Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Gary Neff  
Allison F., Robert H., Priscilla M.,  
Emma R.

**TEAM PRESENTATION OF ACTION**

**PLAN**

**Junior Division**

**Second Place Simpson E.S.**

Coach: Kathy Russo

**Middle Division**

**First Place Pinckneyville M.S.**

Coach: Gary Neff

**Second Place Pinckneyville Middle**

Coach: Carol Byess

*"...Future Problem Solving, developed at the University of Georgia by Paul Torrance, has enabled hundreds of thousands of students to solve problems in society and in their communities," states Dr. Joseph Renzulli, who recommends participation as a way of keeping high achievers engaged.*

*"Where's the Challenge?" Scholastic Administrator, May, 2008. pp. 43-47.*

*(Continued from page 4)*

In addition, summer scholarships of \$150 were given to elementary and middle school students to attend the GAGE/Georgia State University Summer Leadership Institute.

**Summer Scholarship Recipients**

**Elementary**

Francisco F. Rockbridge Elementary, 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sienna M., Rosebud Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Shamon Breon O., Norton Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Anima S., Arcado Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Adebisi T., B. B. Harris Elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Middle**

Rachel K., Lanier Middle, 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Lizbeth P., Sweetwater Middle, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Many adults were also recognized for their efforts in the educational field.  
Laura Magner, Sycamore E.S. Gifted Program Teacher of the Year  
Debbie Wyatt, Assistant Principal, Shiloh E.S. Hughes Award  
Dion Jones, Principal, Rockbridge E.S. Outstanding Administrator of the Year  
Marjorie Simpson, Sycamore Outstanding Parent of the Year

*On behalf of the GAGE board, we extend CONGRATULATIONS to all honorees,  
Dawn White  
FOCUS Teacher*



## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND ANNOUNCES STATE WINNERS

The following schools won top honors at the April 4, 2009 OM State Tournament. The first place teams will go on to World Finals at Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa May 27-30.

### Problem 1: Earth Tech

<b>1st place</b>	<b>Division I</b>	<b>Grayson ES</b>
3rd place	Division II	McConnell MS

### Problem 2: Teach Yer Creature

2nd place	Division I	Puckett's Mill
3rd place	Division II	Knight ES

### Problem 3: The Lost Labor of Heracles

<b>1st place</b>	<b>Division I</b>	<b>Puckett's Mill E.S.</b>
<b>1st place</b>	<b>Division III</b>	<b>Peachtree Ridge H.S.</b>

### Problem 4: Shock Waves

3rd place	Division II	Trickum MS
<b>1st place</b>	<b>Division III</b>	<b>Peachtree Ridge H.S.</b>

### Problem 5: Superstition

2nd place	Division III	Parkview HS
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## DUKE UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES 290 GCPS STUDENTS

16 GCPS students qualified for Grand Recognition by Duke University and are invited to attend Duke's TIP summer educational program

Duke University's Tip program is an academic talent search for seventh grade students in sixteen states. The students take the SAT or ACT, based on their results they may be awarded Grand or State recognition. This year 746 GCPS 7th graders participated in the program, 290 qualified for state recognition, 16 qualified for grand recognition. Through their 10th grade year, Duke University supplies all participants with helpful guidance on preparing for college.

The 16 grand recognition students are invited to attend DUKE's TIP summer educational programs that are held at Duke and other universities including UGA. Additional

information is available at [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu).

### GCPS Grand Recognition 7th grade Students:

Spencer H, and Olivia G, from Pinckneyville MS  
Rikhil S., Michael W. and Mark W. from Duluth MS  
Brian C., Nitant D., "Willie" (William) J., and Leigh J. from Hull MS  
Angela M. and Mary W. From Creekland MS  
Nathaniel S. from McConnell MS  
Nicholas B. from Trickum MS  
Cynthia F., from Lanier MS  
David K., and Hyeon Woo S., from Jones MS

## GREAT RESOURCES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

### Marcy Cook Math

A great way of challenging gifted students mathematical reasoning skills is to use Marcy Cook's Tiling and Task Cards. These unique cards provide math situations where students have to place numbers 1 – 9 in the blanks to complete the task. This thinking activity makes math meaningful and exciting. The situations are available in grades 1 – 8 covering a variety of math skills. Each packet contains 20 (8 ½ by 11) cards, directions, and answers. Numbers are sold separately. Additional information can be found on the following website: <http://www.marcycookmath.com/>

Dawn White  
FOCUS teacher  
Rock Springs Elementary

### Book recommendation for teachers: **BRAINSMART: Strategies for Boosting Test Scores**

I purchased this book as part of an Ed.S course at Nova Southeastern University. It is full of simple, easy to use strategies based on brain research that can improve learning for all students. As well as being useful for you, it is a great tool for preparing professional development sessions. You will learn all about the brain as well as strategies for making learning meaningful, improving retention and transfer of information, and the importance of exercise, good nutrition, and optimism for optimal learning. The book is \$39.00 through BrainSMART.com, but you can find it on Amazon.com for around \$23.00.

Pam Zickefoose  
FOCUS teacher  
J.C. Magill Elementary

## TEACHER RECOMMENDED WEBSITES FROM NCTM NEWS BULLETIN, MAY/JUNE 2009 ISSUE

**Family Math In a Minute** – people of all ages share stories dealing with math they see in their everyday lives. [familymath.stanford.edu/mathinaminute.html](http://familymath.stanford.edu/mathinaminute.html)

**Brain Cake** – resources, activities, summer programs, etc. for girls; blogs and resources for parents and teachers; goal is to spark girls’ interest in math and science. [www.braincake.org](http://www.braincake.org)

**Math Open Reference** – online interactive definitions and examples of math topics. [www.mathopenref.com](http://www.mathopenref.com)

**Calculus7.com** – computer animations, graphics and notes from calculus classroom as resource for students and teachers. [calculus7.com](http://calculus7.com)

**STEM Transitions** – free math and science lessons in six STEM related career areas (health science, information technology, manufacturing, transportations, STEM and agriculture); includes teacher and student materials and assessments. [www.stemtransitions.org](http://www.stemtransitions.org)



Calculus7.com can make everyone smile.

## GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Highlights of the 2009 Legislative Session:

- Funding for National Board Certification supplements was reduced to about \$7 million, which is approximately half the cost to fully fund the program. Language in the budget suggests that legislators intend for NBCT's to receive 10% of a starting Georgia teacher's base pay (of about \$32,000). Language in the bill also stated that the legislature would vote each year to determine if it would be funded for the following year.
- Furloughs for teachers this school year have been removed from the budget. It is possible that legislators could reconvene in Special Session to further discuss furloughs, but it is unlikely at this time.
- School nurse funding was restored to the budget, minus a 3% reduction.
- Funds for Graduation Coaches were rolled into QBE, so the state will no longer provide this line item. Local school systems will have to decide whether or not to use local funds to continue this program.
- The 25% employee/75% employer share of SHBP premiums were restored to the budget. However, premiums are still expected to increase.
- RESAs had their line item restored and were pulled back out of QBE. This means that gifted endorsement programs provided through RESAs will probably continue to be offered.
- HB 251 passed. This legislation will allow school choice within a student's current school system, if space is available. The language in the bill also states that a school system must provide notice to parents by July 1, as to their options for schools based on space available. Parents will have to provide transportation to the out of zone school.
- House Bill 455 allows school systems to extend the deadline (to May 15) by which they must give contract to educators for the 2009-2010 school year only. A last minute amendment related to Ed Leadership degrees. Current degree holders and those in the pipeline who do not work in an administrative position will be grandfathered in and will receive additional pay. Future graduates from Ed Leadership must work in administration in order to receive pay for the degree.
- SB 178, among other things in the omnibus education bill, authorized temporary waiver of expenditure controls in the areas of media centers, direct instruction, and professional development.

Submitted by GAGC Legislative Liaison, Letty Rayneri

**GWINNETT ALLIANCE FOR GIFTED EDUCATION 2008 – 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS**

GAGE would like to thank the following members for their generous contribution for the 2008 – 2009 school year:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Benefactors (\$100)</b><br/>                 Heather Myers<br/>                 Ken &amp; Caroline Morse<br/>                 Marina Peed<br/>                 Mr. &amp; Mrs. Mark Rogers<br/>                 Ron &amp; Carrie Anderson<br/>                 Roy &amp; Angela Boyd<br/>                 Sharon Catter Nemecek<br/>                 Susan Humphreys<br/>                 Tammy Bakhtiari</p> | <p><b>Patron (\$75)</b><br/>                 Amy Treadwell<br/>                 Gregory Job<br/>                 Yong Hoon Choi</p> <p><b>Sponsor (\$50)</b><br/>                 Andre Haswandri<br/>                 Barry &amp; Karen Schnur<br/>                 Chien-Ye Yuan<br/>                 Donna LaRoche<br/>                 Gilson &amp; Simone Horstmann<br/>                 Jim &amp; Joann DeWick<br/>                 Jim &amp; Kathy Koser<br/>                 John &amp; Jeanine Dockstader<br/>                 John Nercessian</p> | <p>John Wanalista<br/>                 Liqun Sui<br/>                 Nina Sheth<br/>                 Peggy Nelson<br/>                 Rafae Walianny<br/>                 Stacy Mitchell<br/>                 Tracy &amp; Renee White<br/>                 Veena Katdare<br/>                 WS &amp; Beth Bumgarner<br/>                 Warren Tsang<br/>                 Wenkai Li<br/>                 Yong Hwang</p> |
|--|---|--|

*Information about a Federal proposal to eliminate the Javits Gifted and Talented Education program. The Javits Federal Fund supports the E. Paul Torrance Center at the University of Georgia.*

**TERMINATION: JAVITS GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
*Department of Education*

The Administration proposes to eliminate the Javits Gifted and Talented Education program because the program is not structured to assess program effectiveness and it has not identified successful strategies that could have broad national impact.

**Funding Summary**  
 (in millions of dollars)

	2009 Enacted	2010 Request	2010 Change from 2009
Budget Authority.....	7	0	-7

**Justification**

The Javits Gifted and Talented program supports research, demonstration and other activities to help elementary and secondary schools meet the educational needs of gifted students. The Administration supports gifted and talented education, however, there is no evidence showing that this small Federal program, which has been in operation for more than a decade, is increasing the availability of gifted and talented programs, enhancing their quality, or advancing innovation in the field.

Currently, one-third of the funds support a research center and the remainder supports grants to about 15 school districts nationwide at an average of \$400,000 per district. These funds are not structured to assess program effectiveness and identify or replicate successful intervention strategies that could have broad national impact. An expert panel that was convened by the Department of Education to assess the quality of the work of grantees determined that the program did not have empirical measures for judging how high-ability students improve. The panel also found that most project evaluations were not structured to compare achievement results with a control group.

The vast majority of gifted and talented programs nationwide are implemented without support from this grant program. Other Federal funds may be used for gifted and talented programs, including Title I programs, Title II professional development programs, and special education programs.