August 1, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO:  City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
      State Superintendent of Education

RE: Gifted Funding Allocations

State funding to improve existing gifted services has been approved for the 2012-2013 school year. The funds have been allocated to ensure that gifted services, which are currently underfunded, have those monetary resources available to help remediate the deficiencies that currently exist. In order to facilitate an understanding of the most effective way to allocate these funds, it is incumbent on the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to ensure that all local education agencies (LEAs) clearly understand how to achieve the highest Gifted Education Return on Investment (GE-ROI). Listed below are the choices to maximize your GE-ROI.

1. Gifted Specialist Teacher Units (If the caseload for gifted specialists is above that which is recommended by the Alabama Administrative Code, increasing teacher units would be the first priority.)
2. Teacher grants to pursue gifted certification
3. Technology for gifted specialist to complete STISETS requirements
4. Technology for gifted classrooms
5. Other materials and supplies for gifted classrooms
6. Materials/supplies for consultative services in the general education classroom
7. Professional development appropriate for gifted specialists

The gifted funding must be used to add to or improve gifted programming and not to supplant already existing services or materials. The budget of each LEA will be pulled for audit purposes at least twice a year by the ALSDE personnel to ensure that each LEA is making the most effective use of its allocation to improve the current level of gifted services offered in the LEA.

If you have any questions concerning appropriate materials or other issues, please contact Mrs. Shirley J. Farrell or Mrs. Nancy J. Johnson at (334) 242-8114.

TRB/SJF/LS
cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
    City and County Gifted Coordinators
    Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris
    Dr. Warren Craig Pouncey
    Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
    Ms. Crystal Richardson
    Mr. Barry Blackwell
    Mrs. Shirley J. Farrell
    Mrs. Nancy J. Johnson

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