DEADLINES FOR 2011-2012 School Year

October 1, 2011 Gifted Tracking Log
- Last date to submit the Gifted Tracking is October 21, 2011 through the State approved process in STISETS. (Report Desktop area) for Oct 2, 2010-Oct 1, 2011.
- Dates to enter into STISETS State Report desktop line
  - Start Date: October 2, 2010
  - End Date: October 1, 2011

Enrichment Child Count:
- Last date to submit: October 21, 2011
- This is a count of students receiving services on Oct 3, 2011 by race/ethnicity and total

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AAGC Annual Conference-Gifted! Stand Up and Speak Out! - on September 22 and 23, 2011 has many surprises. First, there are three keynote speakers. On Thursday, Dr. Jack Naglieri will present in the morning with Dr. Tommy Bice presenting after the morning break. On Friday, Dr. Del Siegle will present a keynote and then a mini-keynote in the morning. Friday will also feature a few sessions for parents. Breakout sessions are offered on both days. Wednesday is the Pre-Conference Workshop. This year AAGC will present “How to Score the Torrance Test for Creative Thinking” with Dr. John Kauffman of Scholastic Testing. We strongly recommend that you attend if you have not been trained on scoring this creativity test.

Door prizes this year are incredible. One lucky attendee will go home with an iPad 2. However, you must be present to win the prize, which will be given away Friday afternoon.

Second Grade Child Find Training Webinar: Friday, September 16, 2011 at 1:00 PM (You can register on STI-PD by the above title)
Need detailed training on how to conduct and facilitate the Second Grade Child Find? Join this one hour session for detailed information and a timeline to stay on schedule!
To join this webinar, go to https://alsde.webex.com/alsde/j.php?ED=167060637&UID=492641817&PW=NNjVhNZU3ZWZI&RT=MiM3
Meeting Password: gifted
New Gifted Coordinator Webinar: Monday September 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM 
(You can register on STI-PD by the above title)
Join this one hour webinar for a look at Gifted and the Law. We will cover LEA Plans 
for Gifted and staying in compliance with the Alabama Administrative Code. 
STISETS, forms and pull-out program content will be included. To join the webinar, 
go to 
YWRjYTdm&RT=MiM3
Enter the password: gift

New Gifted Specialist Webinar: Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 3:30 PM 
(You can register on STI-PD by the above title)
Join this session to review the primary responsibilities of a gifted specialist and how to 
complete forms. We will also look at the gifted section of the Alabama Administrative 
Code and discuss how it relates to you.
To join the online meeting, go to 
zI1NWRk&RT=MiM3
Password: gifted

Don’t forget to complete the Professional Development Specific To Gifted Services 
Survey. It will close on September 30th. 
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AsZk_YcyHQmdGVURW1ZWkd1Z 
FFBUTZEOE1PUk1BRFE&hl=en_US#gid=0

REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES 
Donate A Wrinkle 
http://kids.donateawrinkle.com/

This web site provides the opportunity for students to share their work with the world 
and receive feedback from peers, teachers, experts and professionals on a safe online 
platform. Students can upload videos, writings, songs, art work, and so much more. 
This site was created by Adam Pearson, Dr. Nina Pearson’s son. Donate A Wrinkle is 
also recruiting teachers to work with the site. If you are interested in working with this 
site, contact Dr. Nina Pearson at pearson.nina@gmail.com.

RESOURCES

WANTED: Good Concept-Based Curriculum Units
We will continue to run this “advertisement” in each FoG as a reminder that we would 
like to have a “library” of good concept-based units on the ALEX Gifted Site. E-mail 
your best Concept-based curriculum units to Nancy and Shirley to add to the “library” 
of units. The units will be transferred into the unit template and may include some 
revisions. We can work smarter and not harder if we share our units instead of 
recreating the wheel every time.
PDF to WORD
Here is a FREE web site that converts your PDF documents to word so you can edit. To use this site, you upload your PDF for conversion to word or rich text (RTF). The site will convert the document and e-mail it to you. If you do not want advertisements from this company, do not mark the “Send news & special offers.” This site does not work well with complex pdf files that include graphics. http://www.pdf2word.com/

GoGo News: Big News for Little People
Here’s a web site that provides short news stories for elementary students. From the web site, “Since its inception in 2006, GoGoNews has provided children with general knowledge, as well as a consciousness and awareness of the world, regardless of geography or culture. GoGo has always operated with the singular mission to educate, expose and entertain the little minds in our lives - one day at a time. GoGoNews provides parents and educators with subject matter to start a conversation with children and a safe means by which to deal with the harsh realities of the world in which we live.” http://www.gogonews.com/about.html

FIELD STUDY EXPERIENCES
As with any field study experience, the purpose of the trip is to enhance and enrich the content and skills studied. The trip becomes an embedded activity within the unit. This month’s featured trip is Africam.com http://www.africam.com/wildlife/index.php. This 12 year old site is owned by a South African company and features three locations, Elephant Plains, Nkorho Pan, and Tembe with sight and sound. After clicking on a cam link, scroll to the bottom of the page for a map of the location.

As with any field trip experience, how have you planned for the before, during, and after experiences to further the studies of the concept-based curriculum? What Essential Understandings will students discover through Essential Questions and/or Scaffolded Questions as they experience the field study?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM AAGC
Attention Gifted Specialists & Friends of TAG
It is time for action!
Contact your Alabama State Legislators (House and Senate) and invite them to a Meet & Greet, party, coffee, OR a visit your class! It is important that they know the VALUE of Gifted Education! The AAGC Board has been invited to present to the Education Budget committee for Gifted Funding in January 2012! The State Officials need to know the worth of gifted education TODAY. Let’s pull together and get the funding our students deserve! Contact AAGC to let the board know whom you talked to and your progress with the meeting/party/coffee/Meet and Greet/class visit! Post your information on the FaceBook page of the Alabama Association for Gifted Children!

If you do not know who your Alabama Legislators are, go to http://www.legislature.state.al.us/. Look on the right side for “Find Your Legislator” and enter your zip code. The next page will give you the names of your House and Senate Representatives. Clicking on the names will provide contact information. Make a difference for the gifted children of the Alabama and tell your legislators the importance of gifted education.
GIFTED & ENRICHMENT SERVICES:
K-2: Consultative Services- Meet with classroom teachers who have bright students that need differentiation. Help the teachers differentiate lessons and activities, compact curriculum and provide alternate activities, and provide centers.

3-5/6: Pull-out Program for three to five hours.-Meet special needs* of gifted/enrichment students through concept-based curriculum that include affective activities and discussions, problem-/project-based learning, service learning, inquiry, creative problem solving, and higher order thinking skills.

6/7-8: Pull-Out Program &/or Advanced Courses and Electives-
• Pull-Out- Meet special needs* of gifted/enrichment students through concept-based curriculum that include affective activities and discussions, problem-/project-based learning, service learning, inquiry, creative problem solving, and higher order thinking skills.
• Advanced Courses and Electives- Meet academic special needs through advanced courses taught by highly qualified teachers who have gifted certification or highly qualified general education teachers. Please remember, in order to be comparable, the same number of advanced courses must be offered at each middle school.

9-12: Advanced Courses, IB, AP, Dual Enrollment, Counseling, ACCESS - Meet academic special needs through advanced courses taught by a highly qualified teacher. Please remember, in order to be comparable, the same number of advanced courses must be offered at each high school.

INCLUSION, sometimes called “PUSH-IN” or “BUMP-IN”, is not appropriate gifted services. According to the March 31, 2010 memo from Dr. Bice,

Inclusion, where the gifted specialist serves gifted students by teaching whole or small groups within the general education classroom on a regular basis, is not a service delivery option for gifted services. See the Alabama Administrative Code (23A-8-9.12(6)(c) for approvable options for service delivery.

If differentiation is implemented for gifted students only when the gifted specialist is present in the general education classroom, then the classroom teachers are not learning how to differentiate for gifted and other high-end learners. Meeting with classroom teachers individually or at grade level planning periods enables gifted specialists to be more effective in providing differentiated curriculum for gifted students and collaborating so that general education teachers can meet their needs all day, everyday- not just during the times that the gifted specialist is in the classroom. However, it is occasionally appropriate to demonstrate or model differentiation strategies and centers in general education classrooms.

*Special Needs of gifted students in their gifted area(s)-
• Accelerated Pacing
• Depth
• Complexity
• Creative Expression
• Affective Needs