

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Currey Recognized for Work on Law Helping Gifted Students *2017 law provides guidance for education of gifted and talented students*

State Rep. Jeff Currey (D-East Hartford/Manchester/South Windsor) was honored with the 2017 Friend of the Gifted Award from the Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG) for his work on a recently passed law to improve public education for gifted students.

Rep. Currey is a member of the legislature's Education Committee, where the law originated. Public Act 17-82, An Act Concerning Services For Gifted And Talented Students, requires the education commissioner to designate a State Department of Education (SDE) employee to be responsible for giving boards of education and parents information and assistance relating to services for gifted and talented students.

“Many people assume that gifted students must not need any specialized help, but that’s not the case. This law recognizes that these students have specific needs and assists schools and parents in coordinating a plan for their education,” **Rep. Currey** said. “Connecticut Association for the Gifted has already reported greater awareness of services for gifted students, and that’s what we were hoping to see.”

SDE has described giftedness as “possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of very superior intellectual, creative or specific academic capability and needing differentiated instruction or services beyond those being provided in the regular school program.” CAG notes that gifted students who go unidentified or who do not receive a specialized education can develop behavioral issues due to a lack of stimulation.

Thanks to the new law, Dr. Gil Andrada has been designated as the new Gifted Ed Consultant at the State Department of Education and is already conducting meetings with teachers and superintendents to discuss the new law and its implications.

The law also instructed SDE to develop guidelines for providing school services to gifted and talented students, which will be made available to local and regional boards of education and posted on the department's webpage.

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