

Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program

Research from the National Center for Research on Gifted Education shows that gifted children in poverty and minority groups that demonstrate comparable levels of achievement and aptitude as their peers are 250% less likely to be identified for, and in, gifted and talented programs.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) defines gifted and talented as students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities.

To help ensure equal access, appropriate educational supports must be available for all children regardless of zip code.

Why Support Javits?

The Javits program provides:

- Grants for demonstration programs designed to identify and serve high-ability students from historically underserved populations; and
- Funds for the National Center for Research on Gifted Education, which engages in research and offers technical assistance.

Javits grants have, among many other achievements, supported state and local work by:

- Increasing advanced learning opportunities in the early grades for high-potential students from underserved populations through Project SPARK (Supporting and Promoting Advanced Readiness in Kids). Website: <http://spark.uconn.edu>
- Supporting gifted and talented education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Article: <https://talkbusiness.net/2019/10/ua-little-rock-jodie-mahony-center-receives-nearly-2-5-stem-grant>
- Supporting gifted and talented Native American students. Article: <https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2020/02/06/how-oklahomas-identification-of-gifted-native-students-could-serve-as-a-national-model/>
- Supporting English Learners through Project ELEVATE (English Learner Excellence eVolving through Advanced Teacher Education). Education Week Article: <https://leaders.edweek.org/profile/walt-griffin-superintendent-jeanette-lukens-director-project-elevate-gifted-education/>

Javits is the only dedicated source of Federal support for gifted and talented children. It's imperative that this program is funded at \$32 million to support the work of states, districts, and schools to help gifted and talented children, especially the most vulnerable, as they reach for their personal best.

\$32 million for Javits would be enough funding (based on the average grant award in 2015), for each state, potentially, to receive one grant focused on Title I and one grant focused on Title II.