

Write a letter to your legislative representative...

To Contact Legislators:

- Use this link to locate your Illinois state legislators' addresses. The upper chamber address will be your senator and the lower chamber is your representative.

<https://openstates.org/il/legislators/>

To contact Governor:

- Springfield: Office of the Governor. 207 State House. Springfield, IL 62706.
- Chicago: 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601

In your letter to the governor or legislators be sure to include the following:

1. your child's grade and school
2. your child's experiences in learning/services or lack thereof
3. district services or lack thereof, conversations with teacher/admin
4. request for funding toward professional learning, materials, etc.

Sample Letter:

The following sample letter is not intended to be copied, but rather to be an example of a letter sent by a parent or teacher who is passionate about supporting the needs of gifted children. Remember- Tell your story!

Dear Senator Smith,

I am a voter in your district. My son Alex is currently a second grade student in Susan B. Anthony Elementary School.

Alex has been reading since he was four years old. His math skills are very advanced, and he is constantly stumping adults with his questions. Since he entered kindergarten, Alex's teachers have said they realize he is academically beyond his grade level, but they do not have the resources to meet his needs. Some have said they are too busy working to raise lower performing students to grade level and do not have enough time to challenge Alex. I appreciate their efforts for struggling students. My older son had much-needed support with academics. School district administrators say,

since there is no state funding for gifted programs, they cannot do anything about Alex's situation.

I read about a new law that requires school districts to have a plan for accelerating students. When I asked my son's district administrators about considering my son for acceleration they say he is too young, and it would not be good for him. I also read an article that the Every Student Succeeds Act assures that every student will be able to grow academically. Why is my son being left out when he should be protected by these laws?

My husband and I are very disappointed in the lack of services available for Alex. It breaks our hearts to see him withdraw from being such a curious learner. He says he hates school and argues about attending each day. We believe Alex is entitled, like all other students, to be challenged and grow academically every year. My husband and I are in military service and do not have an income that would support a private school. We are discussing moving to another state where Alex will have more opportunities.

Please do all you can to support funding for schools to train teachers and develop services for high ability students.

Sincerely,

Karen Adams