



Please join the Governor’s Council in supporting HB 76: A bill to update our enabling statute to remove the word “gifted.”

WHAT IS IT?

HB 76 is a bill to remove the reference to “gifted” children from the enabling statute of the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education to more accurately reflect the work that we do for individuals with disabilities and our State and Federal obligation to oversee special educational programs.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

- Gifted children are not eligible for additional services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- The Council serves as the federally mandated Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (ICC), and advises and monitors special education programs, birth to 22. We are also the governing board of Alaska’s Special Education Service Agency (SESA). These are special education grants and programs.
- Exceptionality is not a disability that entitles students to special education. In Alaska, gifted education is a regular education program and because of this we cannot provide oversight for gifted programs in the state. Gifted and talented education is the responsibility of school districts as part of their general education programming.

Please support HB 76 and help the Governor’s Council remove the word “gifted” from our enabling statute.