



How Can Parents Can Effectively Advocate for Their Children's Education

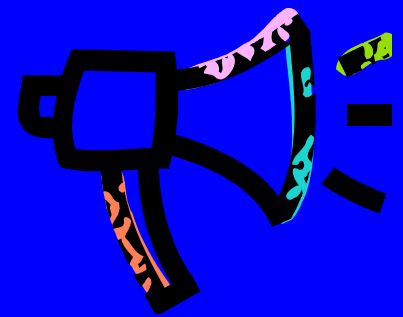
Dr. Jeanne L. Paynter

Specialist for Gifted and Talented
Education

Maryland State Department of Education

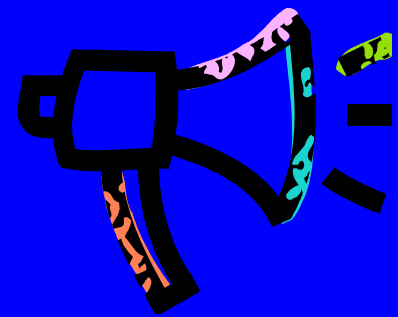
jpaynter@msde.state.md.us

**“THE EXTENT AND QUALITY
OF PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES LARGELY
DEPENDS ON PUBLIC
ADVOCACY.”**



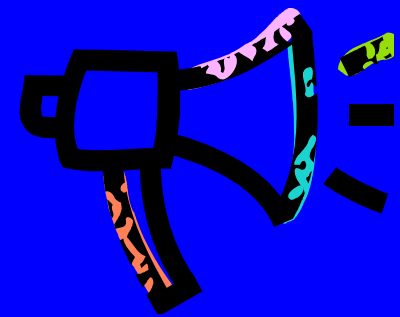
What is Advocacy?

- **advocacy** - active support of an idea or cause etc.; especially the act of pleading or arguing for something.



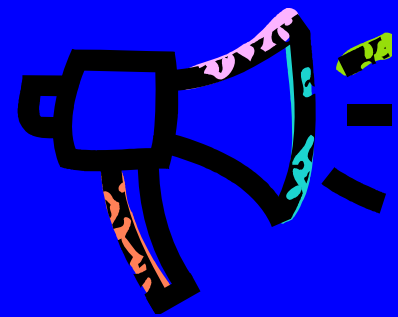
Public Advocacy should be

- Proactive rather than reactive.
- “Build the boat before the rains come.”



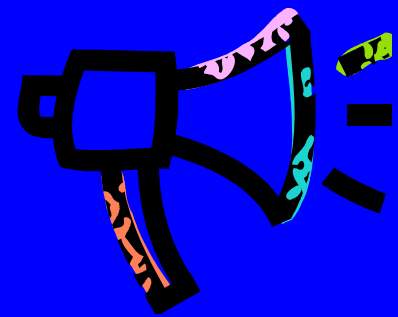
Advocacy Venues

- National and State Professional Organizations
- Task Forces, Commissions, Advisory Councils
- Local Parent-Led Advisory or Advocacy Groups
- The Power of the Single Voice



National Organizations have Advocacy Goals and Tools

- The National Educational Association (NEA)
- The Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)



National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)

- **Parent Membership**
- <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=368>
- **Legislative Updates/ Advocacy Toolkit**
- <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=36>
- **Gifted By State**
- <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=626>





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Membership

Networks

Administrators

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Parents

Information & Resources

Publications

Convention & Seminars

Advocacy & Legislation

Gifted By State

Marketing through NAGC

Career Center

The NAGC Store

Resource Directory

What Is Gifted?

Gifted individuals are those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude or competence in one or more domains.

**Parent and Teachers Connect with
NAGC's Connecting for High Potential**



Gifted At A Glance

- ▶ The Big Picture
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Gifted Education Works
- ▶ About NAGC
- ▶ Supporting Gifted Education

Supporting Parents and Families

- ▶ Where Do I Start?
- ▶ Resource Directory
- ▶ Parenting for High Potential
- ▶ Build Your Library
- ▶ Mile Marker Series

Tools for Educators

- ▶ Classroom Resources
- ▶ Teaching for High Potential
- ▶ National G/T Standards
- ▶ NAGC Live Learning Center
- ▶ WOW - Webinars on Wednesdays



NEW Career Center

[Click Here](#)



Support Gifted Education

[Click Here](#)

NAGC Meetings and More



59th Annual Convention
November 15-18, 2012
In Denver

NAGC News to Note

**The New Year Is All About
WOW**



Registration now open

Support Gifted Education

More From NAGC

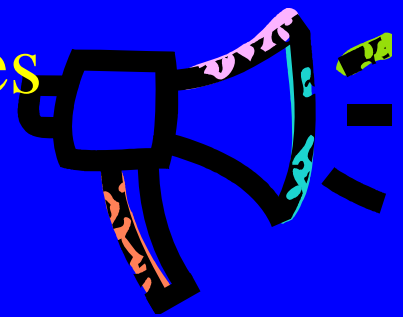
Next GCQ Editor Selected
Drs. Del Siegle and Betsy McCoach have been selected as co-Editors of NAGC's scholarly journal.
[Click here](#) for more information.

NEW Common Core Standards And High-Ability Students

STATE AFFILIATES

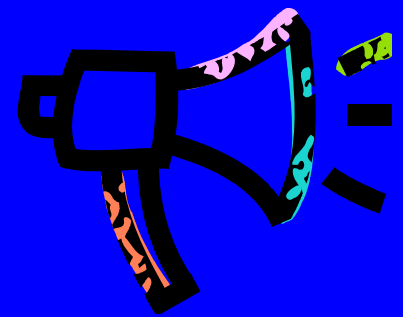
- Share the parent organizations missions and goals
- Organized by parent and community members

“It is not beyond the reach of a small group of well-organized advocates to start a state advocacy group.”



Maryland has Two NAGC Affiliates

- Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) www.megsonline.net
- Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education (MCGATE)
- www.mcgate.org





Maryland Educators of Gifted Students

[About MEGS](#)

[Membership](#)

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[Resources](#)

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[Contact Us](#)

WELCOME



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) annually presents the MEGGY Award at its Maryland Conference on Gifted & Talented Education.



The award recognizes exemplary commitment and contribution to the field of gifted and talented education and to highly able students in the state of Maryland. Nominees are Maryland educators who are 1) Outstanding in the field of gifted and talented education, 2) Dedicated to creating rigorous and challenging curriculum, and/or 3) Providing learning environments that include opportunities for students to demonstrate outstanding academic and creative talent.

[Completed nomination packets are due by Monday, February 6, 2012.](#)



[NAGC
Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards Packet for 2011-12
School Year](#)

Applications due April 20, 2012

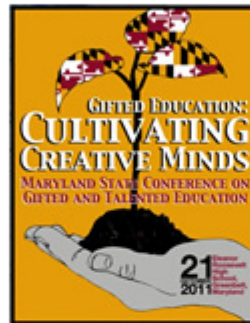




MEGS

SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE EDUCATION
OF GIFTED & TALENTED STUDENTS

Maryland Educators of Gifted Students

[About MEGS](#)[Membership](#)[Conferences, Courses
& Workshops](#)[Resources](#)[Newsletter](#)[Contact](#)

**2011 Maryland State Conference on Gifted and Talented
Education**

Gifted Education: Cultivating Creative Minds

[Newsletter Article](#)

[Resources from Keynote Speaker, Brian Housand](#)



**MSDE Gifted Education
CPD Online Courses 2011-12**

[Click here for more information](#)



Gifted and Talented Education Specialist

The state of Maryland now has certification for "gifted and talented specialist."

[Click here for more information](#)

MCGATE



WELCOME MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP



Mission Statement

To ensure that the academic, social and emotional needs of all children having special gifts and talents are met. It is our belief that it is the basic right of every child to experience the joy of learning each day.

Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education

MCGATE is a gifted education advocacy group made up of educators, parents, students, and other interested persons or groups. We are an affiliate group of the National Association for Gifted Children. We focus on public policy and educational practices that may affect the successful education of gifted, talented, and highly able students in Pre-K through grade 12 including those students who may be identified as gifted with special learning needs.

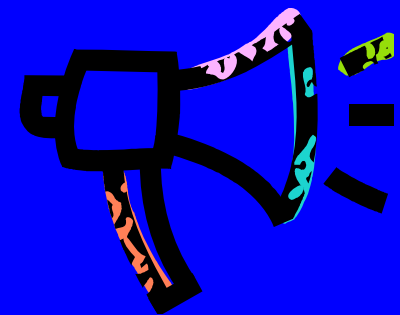
Join us on Facebook!

Become a Facebook fan to keep up with upcoming events in your area, to connect with other members, and for current news and legislative updates.



Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education

Like 164



MEMBERSHIP



[WELCOME](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CONFERENCE](#) [SCHOLARSHIP](#)



Membership Benefits

Membership in MCGATE gives you conference discounts, newsletters, scholarship opportunities and more. It also enables your volunteers to maintain resources for you such as our website and social media and to provide updated information to all stakeholders.

To become a member of MCGATE, please use the [membership form](#) link and mail it with your dues payment. Our membership year is from May 1-April 30th. Dues are not pro-rated.

Annual Membership Dues: \$20 Individual

Add on a one-year parent membership to NAGC for \$15

We will be adding PayPal soon. Until then, please make MCGATE membership checks out to MCGATE and the NAGC check out to NAGC, but mail them both to us at the address on our membership form. Thank you!

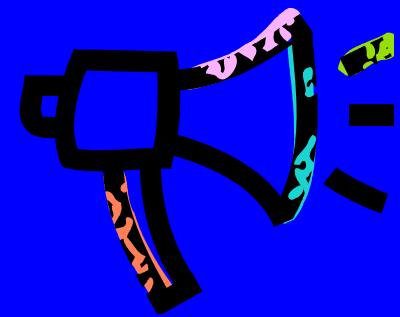
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[NAGC MEMBERSHIP](#)



RESOURCES



[WELCOME](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CONFERENCE](#) [SCHOLARSHIP](#)

Links

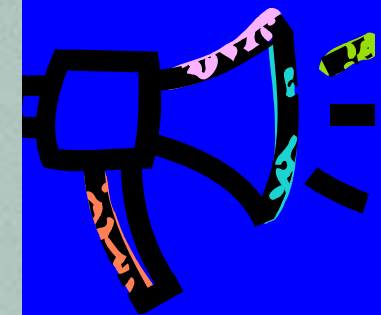
Advocacy Tools

- [Talent Act](#)
- [Top 10 Things Parents Need to Know](#)
- [A Nation Deceived Report on Acceleration](#)
- [NAGC's Response to the President's Proposed 2012 Budget](#)
- [NAGC Revised K-12 Gifted Program Standards](#)
- [NAGC State of the States Report 2010-2011 Media Kit](#)
- [Caroline K. & Kathi K.'s Totally Free Tools for Parent Support & Advocacy](#)

Resources

Is my Child Gifted? START HERE

- [Maryland Department of Education- G & T](#)
- [Maryland 2011 Summer Centers](#)
- [Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted Program Guidelines](#)
- [MEGS- Maryland Educators of Gifted Students](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth- Talent Search, Testing and Summer Programs](#)
- [University of Maryland Young Scholars Program](#)
- [National Association for Gifted Children](#)
- [Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted \(SENG\)](#)
- [Davidson Young Scholars program for highly to profoundly gifted youth](#)

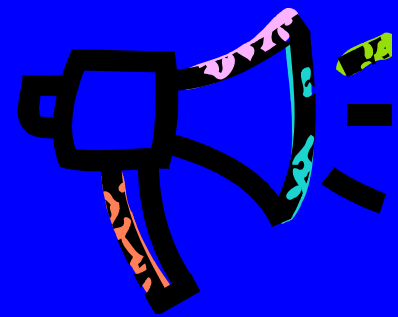


Advisory Councils

- State and local
- May be mandated by law/policy
- Members are appointed

Advantage:

They are part of the system.





The Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/advisory_council

MSDE Home

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Programs

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Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education

MISSION

The mission of the Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education is to encourage and support the education of students who are identified as gifted and talented in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland and national standards for gifted programming.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Gifted and talented students have outstanding talent and perform, or show the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience, or environment.
- Gifted and talented students need different services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to develop their potential.
- Children with outstanding talent and advanced learning capabilities are present in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.
- Equity of opportunity and access to high quality programs and services, as defined by national standards, are necessary for all Maryland students requiring gifted and talented education.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Highlights

- [2009 Update to the State Board of Education](#)
- [Q and A: Gifted Education Specialist Certification](#)
- [How to Start a Maryland GT Education Cohort](#)
- [2011 Annual Update to the Superintendent](#)
- [2010 Annual Update to the Superintendent](#)
- [2009 Annual Update to the Superintendent](#)
- [Mind the Gap](#)
- [Mind the Other Gap: The Excellence Gap](#)

Membership

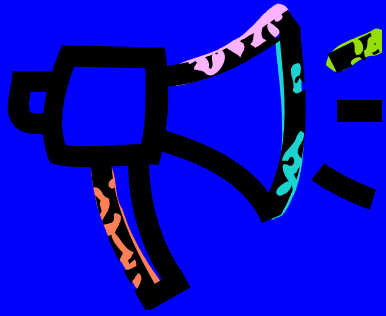
- [2010-2011 Council Members](#)

Videos

- [Gifted and Talented Education in MD, 2008](#)
- [In Their Own Words: Gifted and Talented Education in Maryland](#)
- [A Brief History of Gifted Education](#)

Minutes

- [Minutes, October 13, 2010](#)
- [Minutes, December 7, 2010](#)
- [Minutes, February 10, 2011](#)



Local School System Advisory Groups

Baltimore County Citizen's Advisory
Council (CAC)

The Howard County Public Schools
G/T Advisory Committee



ARTICULATED INSTRUCTION MODULE

Review a description of what is being taught and what students are expected to learn for each course offered in Baltimore County Public Schools.

ABOUT

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- [Special Programs Pre K-12](#)
- [Citizens' Advisory Committee](#)
- [Curriculum](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Primary Talent Development](#)
- [Professional Development](#)
- [Extra-Curricular Programs](#)

Office of Gifted and Talented Education



Citizens' Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education

What is the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) for Gifted and Talented Education? The CAC is a parent and community advocacy group supporting Gifted and Talented Education K-12 in Baltimore County Public Schools. The role of the CAC includes these goals:

- To become knowledgeable regarding best practices in the field of gifted and talented education.
- To educate the public concerning local and national issues in gifted education. To serve as a forum for concerns relating to the BCPS Gifted and Talented Education Program.
- To advise the Superintendent and staff concerning the needs of students requiring gifted education services and the degree to which these needs are being met in the school system.

[CAC Calendar](#)

[Toolkit](#)

[Gifted and Talented Mathematics K-12 Program](#)

[Maryland Coalition for Gifted and Talented Education \(McGate\)](#)

[Maryland Educators of Gifted Students \(MEGS\)](#)

For more information on the CAC goals and accomplishments, Click here to download the [CAC brochure](#).

Contact: Jessica Paffenbarger, GT CAC Chair
gtcac@mail.com

Citizens' Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education (CAC)

c/o BCPS
6901 North Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204
410-887-4330

[Reading Selections for Parents of GT Students](#)



 [Entries RSS](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

HCPSS Resources

[HCPSS GT](#)

[HCPSS News](#)

[HCPSS News Registration](#)

[HCPSS Resources/Links](#)

[Howard County GT
Symphonic Band & Honors
Band](#)

[Howard County Middle
School GT Orchestra](#)

[Summer Institutes for Talent
Development](#)

Programs

[Elementary School Program](#)

[High School Program](#)

[Middle School Program](#)

Supporting Gifted and Talented Education in Howard County

Posted on **December 19, 2011** by hcpssgtac

**Featured Speaker: Jeanne Paynter,
Specialist for Gifted and Talented Education,
Maryland State Department of Education**

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

*Snow Date: January 11, 2012

Location: Homewood School Cafeteria

10914 Route 108, Ellicott City

(Behind the Board of Education)

Filed under: [Parent Academies](#) | Tagged: [Parent Academies](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Demystifying the College Selection Process

Posted on **November 18, 2011** by hcpssgtac

[2011 Demystifying College Admissions](#) (pdf)

[Student Presentation by Audrey Zahlis](#) (pdf)

HCPSS GTAC

[Contact Us](#)

[Resources](#)

[Advisory Committee](#)

↳ [Diversity SubCommittee](#)

↳ [Educator Recognition Subcor](#)

↳ [Parent Academy Coordinators](#)

↳ [Parent Representative to
the G/T Education](#)

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Selection Process](#)

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High School Scheduling](#)

[for Advanced-
Level Learners](#)



Parent-led groups not directly
affiliated with the state or
local school system

Individual Differences in Learning
Association, Inc.

****Party** Holiday Party and Young Adult Panel **Party****

with Julie Kuhn, Sara Tillman, Nick Rodean and Alex Booth Monday December 12th, 2011

Please save your 2nd Mondays of each month --**Any Questions?**, email them to info@gifteddifferentlearners.org



Individual Differences in Learning Association, Inc.

Honored with the Howard County Board of Education, Friends of Education Award

IDL, Individual Differences in Learning Association Inc., is a parent-led, non-profit organization, promoting awareness, understanding and change in the approach to educating and supporting students. Our purpose is to provide information, training and support for teachers, students, parents and others concerned with the education, health and social and emotional well being of different learners.

Twice exceptional and other different learners exhibit neuro-biological learning differences in the context of high cognitive ability or other specific gifts and talents. These talents may go unrecognized without appropriate accommodations and interventions due to 'masking', resulting in average or even under achievement. These differences may result in academic and/or social challenges in a traditional learning environment. Different learners do not conform to the stereotypes for gifted or special education and may also be described as Twice Exceptional, Gifted/Learning Disabled, or Gifted Underachievers. They may be diagnosed with ADHD, Dyslexia, Asperger's Syndrome, some combination, or they may have no diagnosis at all. Often their strengths are not observed because they are in non-academic skills making the connection to real-world experiences and professions crucial

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In the News...

Mission Statement

FAQs

What Works and Why:
November '08 Conference

IDL Calendar/Directions

Conferences,
Presentations and Weblinks
Walking the Path Videos

NEW!!

Past Events

Professional Development

General 2E Resources

Technology Resources

Join Us

Contact Us

Task Forces and Commissions

- Appointed to study an issue
- Comprised of diverse stakeholders
- [2001 Governor's Task Force Report](#)

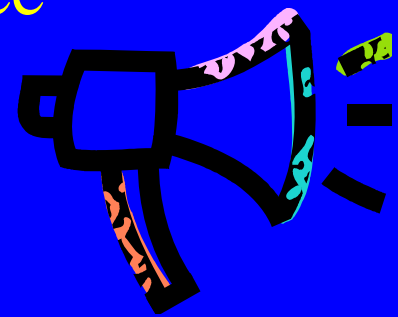
If given the opportunity:

Get involved to educate and influence!



Local Committees

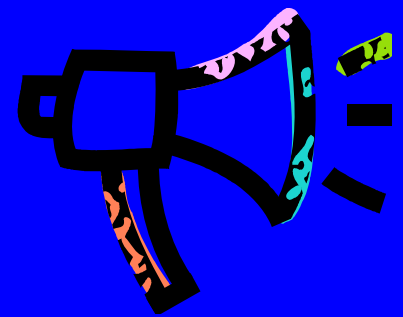
- Typically seek broad representation
- Make decisions that directly or indirectly will affect exceptional children.
- Examples:
 - New Textbook Selection Committee
 - STEM Committee



Boards of Education (local, state)

- Open meetings with a time for public comment.
- Sign up in advance.

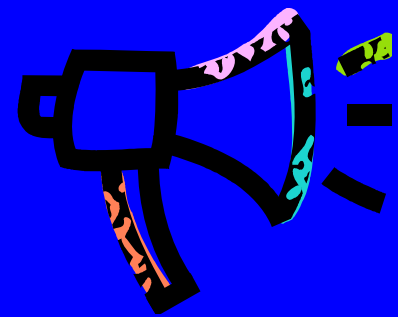
BE THERE!



The Power of One

- Letters to the Editor
- Letters to Public Officials and Legislators

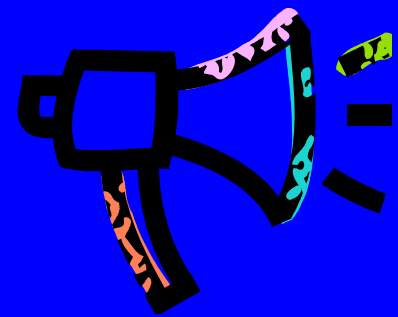
“All of us act as advocates when we express our points of view where we live, work, and play.”



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

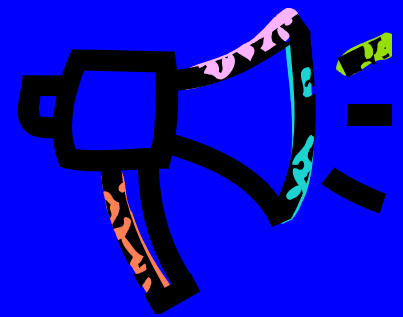
1. Connect to the climate – political, social, economic.

Identify the next wave and ride in on it.



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

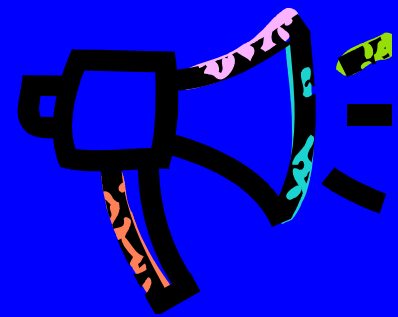
2. Move quickly in times of reorganization.



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

3. Power is what your opponent *thinks* you have.

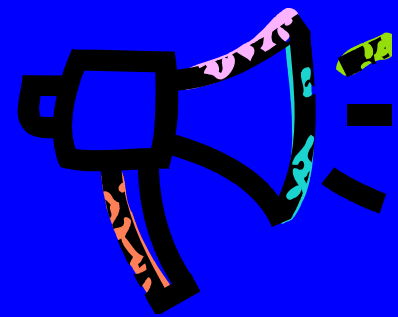
4. See the issue from the other side. (Understand your opponent.)



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

5. Insist on “the letter of the law.”
(Whatever is *on the books* now.)

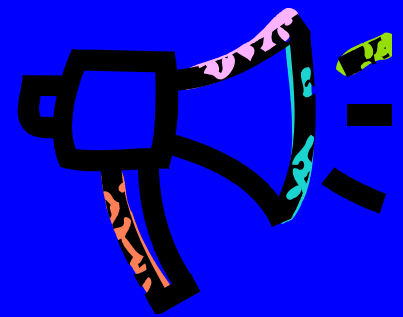
6. Use language others can
understand (and accept.)



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

7. Engage outsiders.

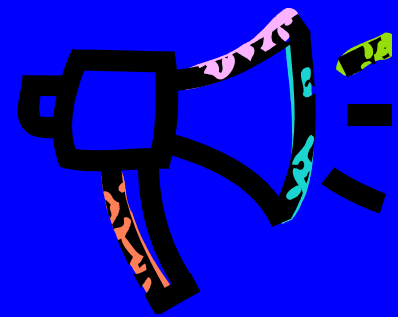
8. Emotional messages move.



TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCATES

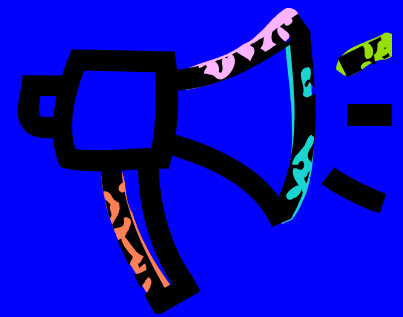
9. Small inputs cascade into major effects (the Tipping Point).

10. You never know who is in your audience.



How to Get Started Now

- State Advocacy- Write a letter in support of the proposed Code of Maryland Regulation for Gifted and Talented Education, due January 17, 2012.
- Local school parent liaisons



“ALL GIFTED IS LOCAL”