

# **GRASSROOTS GIFTED:**

## **A Toolkit for Supporting Gifted Education in Colorado**

- ◆ **What is the purpose?** Parents, educators and administrators in Colorado's public K-12 schools will have the necessary tools to understand, participate as partners and account for the implementation of program plans to identify and serve gifted children.
  
- ◆ **How do I begin?** Review the information in this packet to understand the changes in the law (Exceptional Children's Educational Act). Contact the name listed with your area school district (see Gifted Education Administrative Units in Colorado) and ask who you can speak with regarding Gifted Education Programming Services. Request information about gifted education in your school district and how you can become involved at your local school or district level.
  
- ◆ **What organizations and committees would be helpful as I begin to participate as an advocate? (see Resources List in packet)**
  - ❖ Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented (CAGT)
  - ❖ Local Affiliate of CAGT (see [www.coloradogifted.org](http://www.coloradogifted.org))
  - ❖ State Advisory Council for Gifted & Talented Student Education (organized by congressional districts)
  - ❖ School District Gifted Education Committee/Council
  - ❖ School District Accountability Committee
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  - ❖ School Gifted Education Resource Teacher
  - ❖ Gifted Education District Coordinator
  
- ◆ **What should I remember as I begin to seek information and ways to participate?**
  - ❖ Focus on supporting the efforts at the local level.
  - ❖ Accountability can be measured by
    - Evidence of individual student growth and development
    - Evidence of gifted education program effectiveness. (see ECEA Rules)
  - ❖ Respect the limitations of resources.
  - ❖ Keep your elected representatives informed.
  - ❖ Find ways to build community partnerships to support learning opportunities.
  - ❖ Remember this year is a transition as the new law is implemented.
  - ❖ Celebrate excellence!