

Report to GDCALN from WATG on State Policy Actions 1/26/22
Pam Clinkenbeard, WATG Government Action Committee

WASB resolution

As Amy noted, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) passed an advanced learning resolution at its January conference. The final version will amend existing resolution 2.37 (from 2019), which just says "The WASB supports increasing state funding for Gifted and Talented programming in Wisconsin's public schools." The amendment voted on last week adds "The WASB encourages that schools focus less on identifying 'gifted' students and more on identifying and addressing unmet learning needs of students capable of high levels of achievement. The WASB further encourages districts to provide a variety of advanced programming opportunities for K-12 students, including acceleration options, and to offer opportunities to individuals such that students from every background are able to achieve at their highest possible levels."

Pending legislation

The draft gifted education accountability bill (LRB 3080) has now been introduced in both houses of the state legislature, and there will be a public hearing on the Assembly version (AB903) in their Education Cmte. meeting next Tuesday morning Feb. 1. You can click on the bill's full text at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/ab903>. Its aim is to make advanced learning more widespread, transparent, and accountable. It includes a small financial component, which makes teachers who are interested in GT professional development eligible for the Fast Forward grant program of the Dept. of Workforce Development.

Several representatives of WATG will testify in person at next Tuesday's hearing, but you can add your own support by writing testimony or by just calling your Representative. **This would be particularly helpful if you live in the district of one of the committee members,* and many of you do**; you can find that list at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/assembly/2361>.

*In particular, if your home address is within the district of any of the Representatives below (most are Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Education), we could use your help in trying to get AB903 passed with bipartisan support! If you're not sure, you can enter your home address here - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/> - in the box under "Who are my legislators?" to see. All you would be asking is for them to please support AB903. You can write up to one page of testimony and send it to advocacy@watg.org by 9:00am Monday 1/31, or **you can just call or email your Rep.'s office before Tuesday and ask them to support the bill!**

Rep. Sondy Pope - S and SW of Madison incl. west side Oregon, Verona

Rep. Gary Hebl - Cottage Grove, Stoughton, Sun Prairie

Rep. Dave Considine - Baraboo, Mazomanie, Portage, Sauk City

Rep. Don Vruwink - Edgerton, Milton, east side Oregon, Whitewater

Rep. William Penterman (R) - Columbus, DeForest, Watertown