



# TIGER

## Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform

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### **TIGER Fact Sheet: Accomplishments and Goals**

4/29/02

#### **What is TIGER?**

TIGER is a rapidly growing network of parents, educators, administrators, legislators, and the general public working to foster an understanding of all gifted children and their exceptional needs and to advocate for the appropriate education of all students. More than 700 families are part of the TIGER network and several thousand parents and educators receive TIGER literature at their schools.

#### **What has TIGER accomplished this year?**

TIGER worked in partnership with the Tennessee Association for the Gifted, the Tennessee PTA, the Tennessee School Boards Association, the Department of Education, and other groups to defeat recent legislation targeting gifted education in Tennessee. The proposed legislation would have removed the mandate in state law to identify and serve gifted students. TIGER maintained an almost daily presence in the General Assembly for more than eight weeks and made a presentation at an education committee hearing. State legislators reported that during this legislative session they received more visits, calls and email promoting gifted education than any other issue.

TIGER significantly raised the public's awareness of the academic, social, and emotional needs of gifted children. In the last five months, TIGER provided the press with information that was included in more than 20 newspaper articles and television stories, including three front-page articles.

TIGER lobbied the Tennessee congressional delegation to support increased federal funding for gifted education. As a result of this effort, six of Tennessee's nine U.S. Representatives signed an appropriations letter requesting \$25 million for gifted education as part of the "Leave No Child Behind Act."

#### **What are TIGER's goals?**

TIGER plans to work in partnership with other groups and the community to ...

- Draft thoughtful, research-based policy that will improve gifted education in Tennessee
- Advise office holders and candidates on issues related to high-ability learners
- Restore funding for the Tennessee Governor's Schools
- Create a gifted teacher certification policy that will increase the number of regular education and special education teachers with formal training in gifted education
- Advocate for a full-time, state director of gifted education
- Help create a gifted research and education center at a Tennessee college or university

#### **How to contact TIGER**

Visit TIGER's website (<http://giftedtn.go.to>) or contact a local representative:

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