



# T.I.G.E.R. Newsletter

## Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform

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### Reps. Clement and Gordon sign Javits letter, deadline extended 4 days

In an exciting development, Representatives Bob Clement and Bart Gordon have signed the Javits appropriations letter requesting \$25 million for gifted education grants.

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/Javits/>

Last year the Javits gifted program received \$11 million, which funded a national gifted research center run by Joseph Renzulli and eight major grants awarded to states and school districts.

Tennessee has never received a large Javits grant. However, with the proposed increased funding, approximately 40 major grants would be awarded, giving Tennessee an excellent chance. That is why it is so important for Tennessee congressmen to sign the appropriations letter.

The deadline for signing the Javits appropriations letter -- authored by Rep. Gallegly of California -- has been extended to Friday, April 19.

TIGER encourages parents and others to CALL their representatives in Washington to urge them to sign the Gallegly letter. When you call, ask to speak to the **legislative assistant handling education issues**. Tell the assistant that the Governor's Schools have been eliminated and that gifted education has been under fire in the state legislature. Emphasize that increased funding means that Tennessee will likely receive a grant.

Here are their phone numbers:

- **William L. Jenkins (R-01) 202-225-6356**
- **John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-02) 202-225-5435**
- Zach Wamp (R-03) 202-225-3271 \*\*CAN'T SIGN
- **Van Hilleary (R-04) 202-225-6831**
- Bob Clement (D-05) 202-225-4311 \*\*SIGNED
- Bart Gordon (D-06) 202-225-4231 \*\*SIGNED
- **Ed Bryant (R-07) 202-225-2811**
- **John S. Tanner (D-08) 202-225-4714**
- **Harold E. Ford, Jr. (D-09) 202-225-3265**

Rep. Wamp can't sign the letter because he is a member of the appropriations committee. The other congressmen are waiting to hear from constituents in their districts.

### Tennessee conference on gifted education and parenting announced

Parents, mark your calendars!

The Tennessee Association for the Gifted (TAG) has announced the location and dates of their annual conference. The conference will be held in Chattanooga on October 18 and 19 (Friday and Saturday), 2002, at the Chattanooga Hotel.

<http://www.chattanoogaohotel.com/>

The conference plans include sessions devoted to issues important to parents. A large parent turnout is anticipated. More information about the conference will be published on the TIGER and GIFTEDTN mailing lists when it becomes available.

Children and parents love Chattanooga's many attractions, including the Tennessee Aquarium (the *largest freshwater aquarium in the world*), IMAX, Lookout Mountain, Ruby Falls cave, the Children's Science Museum, several railroad exhibits and other attractions.

<http://www.chattanoogafun.com/>

See you there!

### Important Meetings

Parents and others interested in attending the following meetings should contact Michael Swanson ([swanson.michael@comcast.net](mailto:swanson.michael@comcast.net)) for more information. It is unlikely that gifted education will be a topic, but it is important that people representing gifted education attend.

- The President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education will conduct a hearing at Vanderbilt University on April 18, 2002. The meeting is on the Peabody campus in the Wyatt Administration Building. The meeting starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.
- The Tennessee Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities will be meeting on April 22, 2002 at the Middle Tennessee Regional Resource Center, 1210 Foster Avenue, Nashville, TN 37210. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

TIGER is a statewide, non-profit organization of parents and other advocates working to strengthen educational opportunities for academically gifted children in Tennessee.