

**House Bill 2 Testimony**  
**DP 50 Gifted and Talented Additional Funding Program 09**  
**Page E-23 LFD Summary**

The executive budget includes the addition of \$85,000 general fund per year to the current gifted and talented appropriation of \$150,000 per year. These funds are used to provide a small amount of earmarked funds for gifted and talented programs in Montana schools. Most gifted and talented funding services are provided by the district general fund budgets. Last year, Montana districts reported spending 3,852,875 million dollars from the general fund to provide gifted and talented services to Montana students.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch requests \$200,000 in general fund be added each year of the biennium for gifted and talented education in Montana schools. State statute and administrative rules require all school district to provide educational services to gifted and talented students that are commensurate with their needs. Current funding levels do not support adequate gifted and talented programs in our schools. Additional funding will support educators as they address the learning needs of their high ability, high potential student by providing challenging academic offerings, professional development for teachers and resources and support for parents.

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**Montana Office of Public Instruction**  
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