



Gifted and Talented State Grant Report

September 2026

The current biennial grant period for the Gifted and Talented State Grant runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. The Montana State Legislature provided \$700,000 total in grant funds for the two-year grant cycle. The amendment to **20-7-904, MCA**, added new district reporting requirements set out in section (4), effective October 1, 2019. The OPI data shown below includes data from the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

Gifted and Talented State Grant

Fifty-nine school systems submitted the Intent to Apply for the Gifted and Talented (GT) State Grant funds in this grant cycle. The Intent to Apply documents the school system's intended local match. Gifted and Talented Funds are not awarded above the districts stated local match. All school systems selected one of their Legal Entities (Elem, HS or K-12) to act as the fiscal agent for the two-year Gifted and Talented State Grant. Six schools withdrew their applications or declined funding which was then re-allocated to eligible applicants who missed the initial deadline.

The table below summarizes the number of schools receiving funds from the Office of Public Instruction for Gifted and Talented programs (pursuant to **20-7-903**) by student enrollment/school system size. A detailed list of all 2025-27 Gifted and Talented Allocations is available in **Appendix A**.

2025-2027 Grant Funding Summary

School System (SS) Size Based on Total Enrollment K-12	Maximum 2 YR Award based on SS Size	# of SS Awarded	Total Enrollment 2024-25	% of total enrollment for GT Grant SS	2 YR Total of GT State Funding	% of GT State funding available
Small <50 Students	\$4,000	3	77	0.09%	\$10,500	1.50%
Small 51 - 100	\$5,000	4	279	0.31%	\$20,000	2.86%
Small 101 - 250	\$7,500	12	2020	2.25%	\$74,750	10.68%
Small 251 - 1,000	\$10,000	15	7357	8.21%	\$132,400	18.91%
Medium 1,001 - 3,000	\$15,000	13	20,779	23.18%	\$181,000	25.86%
Large 3,001 - 5,000	\$30,000	1	3,194	3.56%	\$30,000	4.29%

School System (SS) Size Based on Total Enrollment K-12	Maximum 2 YR Award based on SS Size	# of SS Awarded	Total Enrollment 2024-25	% of total enrollment for GT Grant SS	2 YR Total of GT State Funding	% of GT State funding available
Large 5,001 - 10,000	\$40,000	5	39,455	44.02%	\$200,000	28.57%
X-Large 10,001+	\$51,350	1	16,467	18.37%	\$51,350	7.34%
All GT State Grants		54 School Systems	89,628 Students	100%	\$700,000	100%

In the assurance portion of the Gifted and Talented State Grant application, each district's authorized representative assures the following:

- the LEA will comply with all appropriate sections of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) **20-7-901-904**;
- the LEA will keep records and provide information to the state education agency as reasonably may be required for fiscal audit and program evaluation, consistent with the requirements of the state agency under this statute, including reporting the local district match and awarded grant funds on the school system Trustees report; (pursuant to **20-7-903**)
- the design, planning, and implementation of programs authorized by this chapter will provide for systematic consultation with parents, teachers and administrative personnel in the school(s) and with other groups as may be deemed appropriate by the local education agency; and
- the LEA will comply with the provisions of Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.804, effective 12/8/00
- provide a description of the way(s) they are meeting the requirements to include a child's parents in the Gifted and Talented evaluation process (pursuant to **20-7-902**).

Parental Involvement in the Evaluation Process

School systems receiving grant funds were required to submit their Gifted and Talented Program Plan to the Office of Public Instruction prior to grant approval. The OPI Gifted and Talented Program Plan template includes a section to provide for parental involvement in the evaluation process.

On the GT State grant applications for 2025-26, thirty-two of fifty-four school systems (59%) noted parental involvement in the evaluation process through the use of a Parental Observation Checklist. In a review of District Gifted and Talented Program Plans uploaded with their 2025-26 applications, 34 out of 54 school systems plans included parent involvement.

Districts are required to upload a current copy of their "Gifted and Talented Education Program Plan" based upon **ARM 10.55.804 and MCA 20-7-901 through 904**. District Gifted and Talented Education Program Plans are viewable through the [E-grants System Public Access](#). Select E-grants Access Select, search for a District, select "2026" Fiscal Year, and scroll down to find "Gifted and Talented State Grant" and click "Open."

Grant Funded Professional Development Activities

All school systems receiving 2025-27 Gifted and Talented state grants are required to utilize a portion of their funds for professional development. In a review of Gifted and Talented 2025-26 State grant applications, the school systems' professional development activities are primarily designed to:

- Improve instructional practices for advanced learners.
- Strengthen equitable identification processes.
- Build teacher capacity through ongoing training, coaching, collaboration, and conference attendance.
- Ensure GT students receive challenging, enriched, and differentiated learning experiences across subjects.

Summary of School System Professional Development for Gifted & Talented (GT) Education

Districts are implementing professional development to strengthen gifted and talented education with training opportunities focused on improving identification, instruction, and support for GT learners. Key components included:

Assessment & Instructional Training

- Teachers trained to administer and interpret district-selected achievement tests (e.g., CogAT).
- PD emphasized differentiation, curriculum enrichment, acceleration, and evidence-based strategies for advanced learners.
- Instructional coaches supported teachers through modeling, co-planning, and data analysis aligned with MTSS.
- Specialized training offered on STEM instruction, art-integrated math/science learning, digital platforms for accelerated learning, the Science of Reading, and specific tools like Zearn Math, Reflex Math, iReady, and Riverside Training Academy.

Conferences & Workshops

- Attendance at the following events:
 - **OPI Summer Institute** (annual attendance by GT Coordinator and classroom teachers).
 - **National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Convention** in Pittsburgh (several staff in 2025 and GT Specialists again in 2026 due to AGATE cancellation).
 - **Edufest in Boise** (Training on engagement, enrichment, and GT instructional strategies).
 - **Montana AGATE Conference** (multiple staff and coordinators planned, but unable to attend due to event cancellation in 2025 and 2026).
 - Additional conferences such as Deeper Learning, BrainPOP STEM PD, MTPLC, and other in-state and virtual opportunities.

Collaborative Learning & Capacity Building

- GT specialists and coordinators provided PD to classroom teachers through PIR sessions, early release trainings, PLC sharing, and EPP (Enhancing Professional Practices) activities.
- Staff engaged in book studies (e.g., *Making Differentiation a Habit*) and classroom observations of transformational learning.

- Teachers collaborated with partner districts that have established GT programs, including classroom visits and consultation.
- Coordinators and GT teachers received ongoing PD to build capacity in program leadership and instructional design.

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

- PD aimed at improving equitable GT identification, including development and training on a new K–12 identification protocol.
- Training to help staff recognize diverse indicators of giftedness and reduce identification bias.

Gifted and Talented Education PD activities are viewable through the [E-grants System Public Access](#). Select E-grants Access Select, search for a District, select “2026” Fiscal Year, and scroll down to find “Gifted and Talented State Grant” and click “Open.” Professional Development is under “Program Detail: Objectives and Activities.”

Description of Gifted and Talented Services

The school systems receiving grant funds identified unique uses for the funds to meet their local needs for providing Gifted and Talented Services. Of note:

- Forty-three of the fifty-four school systems are using grant funds for **curriculum differentiation**.
- Fifteen of the fifty-four school systems are using grant funds for **individual long-range learning plans**.
- Thirteen of the fifty-four school systems are using grant funds for **acceleration programs**.
- Eleven of the fifty-four school systems are using grant funds for **secondary level programming**.

Gifted and Talented Education Instructional Program activities are viewable through the [E-grants System Public Access](#). Select E-grants Access Select, search for a District, select “2026” Fiscal Year, and scroll down to find “Gifted and Talented State Grant” and click “Open.” Objectives and Instructional Activities are under “Program Detail: Objectives and Activities.”

Evaluation of Program Effectiveness

At the end of each grant cycle, school systems complete a program report to detail the effectiveness of Gifted and Talented state grant funded programs. The Program Report requires school systems to report on the number of identified students served in the previous school year by the grant. School systems/districts must report on the outcome of their locally identified student growth objectives. The outcome data includes measures such as student achievement or growth; indicators of student and parent satisfaction with the program; and other gauges of program quality as determined by the district in partnership with OPI. The objectives and measurements are provided by each district in the “Objectives” portion of the grant application from their prior grant application.

The program report also required districts to report on their local matching funds. Pursuant to **Part 9, 20-7-904(b) MCA**, grant recipients must match state grant funds. Gifted and Talented Education State Grants provide supplemental financial assistance to public school systems to strengthen and improve services and educational practices to benefit gifted and talented learners. Districts must describe how their district utilized

local matching funds in the prior grant cycle not to include activities, projects, and expenditures that were solely funded with the state grant portion.

Individual Gifted and Talented Grant Program Reports are viewable through the [E-grants System Public Access](#). Select E-grants Access Select, search for a District, select “2025” Fiscal Year, and scroll down to find “Gifted and Talented Program Report” and click “Open”.

Gifted and Talented Statewide Data

	Enrollment (All Districts)	Gifted & Talented Identified Count	% of Students Identified as GT
2025-26	142,071	6,519	4.59%
2024-25	144,517	6,293	4.35%
2023-24	148,585	5,986	4.03%
2022-23	150,573	6,058	4.02%

Statewide Gifted and Talented Professional Development

A description of the training provided by OPI to districts related to providing services to Gifted and Talented students are listed in **APPENDIX B**.

Implementation of Resources

The following resources were created by the Office of Public Instruction and presented to multiple stakeholders. These resources have been shared via email and the monthly OPI Current newsletter to Montana districts:

1. [Gifted Education Training Site](#)
2. [Program and Student Success Checklist](#)
3. [Montana Advanced Learning Plan](#)
4. [Montana Program Planning Template](#)

Appendix A

2025-2027 Allocations for Gifted and Talented State Grants

LE Number	LE Name- Fiscal Agent for School System	School System Member LEs	School System/ District Size	2025-26 MATCH	2026-27 MATCH	TOTAL 2 YEAR MATCH	2025-26 Grant Allocation (SFY 2026)	2026-27 Grant Allocation (SFY 2027)	2 YEAR ALLOCATION
0577	Alberton K-12 Schools		Small 101-250	\$ -	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
0366	Anderson Elem		Small 101-250	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$75,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0368	Belgrade Elem	0369 Belgrade HS	Large 3001-5000	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$114,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
0112	Belt Elem	0113 Belt HS	Small 251-1000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
0865	Big Timber Elem*		Small 251-1000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
0965	Billings Elem	0966 Billings HS	XL 10,001+	\$921,941	\$942,487	\$1,864,428	\$27,550	\$23,800	\$51,350
0350	Bozeman Elem	0351 Bozeman HS	Large 5001-10000	\$250,000	\$ 255,000	\$505,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
0978	Broadview Elem*	0979 Broadview HS	Small 101-250	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
0889	Bynum Elem		Small 0-50	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,500
0317	Cayuse Prairie Elem		Small 251-1000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
0883	Choteau Elem	0884 Choteau HS	Small 251-1000	\$5,285	\$6,500	\$11,785	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0595	Clinton Elem		Small 101-250	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0796	Colstrip Elem	0797 Colstrip HS	Small 251-1000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0312	Columbia Falls Elem	0313 Columbia Falls HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000

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0674	Conrad Elem*	0675 Conrad HS	Small 251-1000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
0731	Corvallis K-12**		Medium 1001-3000	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$290,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0740	Darby K-12 Schools		Small 251-1000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0005	Dillon Elem		Small 251-1000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$52,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
1235	Dutton/Brady K-12 Schools		Small 51-100	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
1240	East Helena K-12		Medium 1001-3000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0072	Fromberg K-12*		Small 51-100	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
0364	Gallatin Gateway Elem*		Small 101-250	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
0473	Geyser K-12		Small 0-50	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$39,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
0926	Glasgow K-12 Schools**		Small 251-1000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0098	Great Falls Elem	0099 Great Falls HS	Large 5001-10000	\$292,000	\$299,000	\$591,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
0735	Hamilton K-12 Schools		Medium 1001-3000	\$123,496	\$123,496	\$246,992	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0427	Havre Elem	0428 Havre HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
0487	Helena Elem	0488 Helena HS	Large 5001-10000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$ 100,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
0586	Hellgate Elem		Medium 1001-3000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0146	Highwood K-12		Small 101-250	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500

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0060	Joliet Elem	0061 Joliet HS	Small 251-1000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
0310	Kalispell Elem	0311 Flathead HS	Large 5001-10000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
0323	Kila Elem		Small 101-250	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0792	Lame Deer Elem	1230 Lame Deer HS	Small 251-1000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 20,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0367	LaMotte Elem		Small 51-100	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
0970	Laurel Elem	0971 Laurel HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$84,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0522	Libby K-12 Schools		Medium 1001-3000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
1221	Lincoln K-12 Schools		Small 101-250	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
0612	Livingston Elem	0613 Park HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
1241	Lockwood K-12		Medium 1001-3000	\$430,000	\$435,000	\$865,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0588	Lolo Elem		Small 251-1000	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$17,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0583	Missoula Elem	0584 Missoula HS	Large 5001-10000	\$72,000	\$76,500	\$148,500	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
0460	Montana City Elem		Small 251-1000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0811	Noxon Elem**	0812 Noxon HS	Small 101-250	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0987	Pioneer Elem		Small 51-100	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$5,800	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
0477	Polson Elem	0478 Polson HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$104,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000

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1200	Ronan H S	1199 Ronan Elem	Medium 1001-3000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0605	Roundup Elem*	0606 Roundup HS	Small 251-1000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 0
0985	Shepherd Elem	0986 Shepherd HS	Small 251-1000	\$20,000	\$ 20,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0324	Smith Valley Elem		Small 101-250	\$11,398	\$11,398	\$22,796	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0464	Stanford K-12 Schools		Small 101-250	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0593	Target Range Elem		Small 251-1000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0519	Troy Elem	0520 Troy HS	Small 251-1000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
0540	Twin Bridges K-12**		Small 101-250	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$7,500
0738	Victor K-12 Schools		Small 101-250	\$8,500	\$9,000	\$17,500	\$ 0*	\$3,750	\$3,750
1223	West Glacier Elem		Small 51-100	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
0334	Whitefish Elem	0335 Whitefish HS	Medium 1001-3000	\$76,750	\$79,000	\$155,750	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
0453	Whitehall Elem	0454 Whitehall HS	Small 251-1000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
0591	Woodman Elem		Small 0-50	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
						\$5,748,951	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000

* Districts who submitted intent to apply but later withdrew application in 2025-26 SY.

**Districts who were funded with available funding from districts who withdrew for 2025-26 SY and 2026-27 SY.

Appendix B

OPI Professional Development & Partnerships

Office of Public Instruction Teacher Learning Hub:

- **Proficiency-based Learning | Four-part Program:**
 - *A Primer for Building a Personalized and Proficiency-based Learning Model*
 - *Success Starts Here: A Guide to Graduate Profiles*
 - *Preparing Students for the MAST Performance Task*
 - *Mathematical Practice #1: Problem-Solve and Persevere*
- *Mathematical Practice #2: Abstract and Generalize*
- *Teaching with Primary Sources from the Library of Congress*
- *Introduction to the Question Formulation Technique*

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2025:

- *You're Finished Already? Meeting the Needs of Advanced Learners*, Jenny Jarvis, OPI
- *Designing for All: The Power and Promise of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)*, Katie Novak
- *How to Design for All - Practical Strategies and Routines for Implementing UDL*, Katie Novak
- *Empowering Educators to Embrace Personalized, Proficiency-Based Learning*, Lauren McCauley & Julianna Charles Brown, Knowledgeworks
- *Practical Strategies for Implementing Personalized, Proficiency-Based Learning*, Lauren McCauley, Knowledgeworks
- *Personalized & Competency Based Education - What Is It & Why Are People Talking About It?* Sara Cole, Kalispell School District
- *Using MTDA to Meet Diverse Student Needs*, Caitlin Byers & Robyn Nuttall, Montana Digital Academy
- *Empowering Proficiency-Based Education with EdReady Montana: A Free Resource for MT Schools*, Virg Hale & Jacquie Teasdale, MTDA: EdReady Montana
- *Media Mavericks: Engaging Students with Media Projects*, Ann Bernard, Montana PBS
- *Shaping Learners Career Pathways for All Ages*, Erica Swanson & Courtney George, Department of Labor and Industry
- *From Curiosity to Career: Middle & High School CTE in Action*, Jamie Corley and Eric Tilleman

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2026:

- *Assessing and Developing Creativity in the Classroom*, Jeb Puryear, University of Montana
- *From Funding to Futures: Making the Most of the Montana Advanced Opportunities Grant*, Krystal Smith, OPI
- *Gifted and Talented Refresher: New Inspiration for the What, Why, and How of Gifted Education*, Jenny Jarvis, OPI

Office of Public Instruction Summer Institute June 2026 (continued):

- *High Ceilings, Solid Foundations: Reimagining MTSS to Challenge and Support High-Ability Learners*, Jenny Jarvis, OPI
- *Media Mavericks: The Power of Youth Media*, Ann Bernard, Montana PBS
- *Personalized & Competency Based Education (PCBE)- What Is It & Why Are People Talking About It?* Sara Cole, Kalispell School District
- *Mathematics as Disciplined Creativity*, Frederick Peck, University of Montana
- *Supporting Proficiency-Based Learning with Clearinghouse Resources*, Marcella Flannigan, MTDA
- *Pioneering Math Success: Montana's Bridge to Algebra Readiness*, Virg Hale and Jacquie Teasdale, MTDA
- *Engage Your Students in Meaningful Mathematics Through Modeling* (Elementary and Secondary 6-12 sessions) Dr. Megan Wickstrom, MSU
- *Creating a K-8 Career Connected Learning Plan*, Courtney George & Julissa Bencia-Hensel, Dept. of Labor and Industry (DLI)
- *Building a High School - Sponsored Pre-Apprenticeship Program*, Darbi Linder & Amber Lamb, DLI
- *Career Development: Best Practices for Middle School*, Laurie Gorence, DLI
- *From Curiosity to Careers: Work Based Learning (WBL) for Montana's Grades 5–8*, Kaitlin Trutzel, Shannon Boswell, and Ethan Ego, OPI
- *Turning Plans into Action: Supporting College, Career & Life Readiness Through Student Follow-Through*, Stephen Guillette, Level All
- *Building Career Pathways with Purpose: Using Clearinghouse Resources to Expand CTE and Career Readiness Options*, Marcella Flannigan, MTDA

District Training Provided by OPI

- Bainville- Onsite training, January 19, 2026
- Phone consultation, technical assistance, and virtual training to multiple schools in 2024-2026

Partnerships or Other Professional Development

Association of Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)

- Montana OPI Gifted and Talented Specialist has been representative on their board.
- AGATE cancelled their annual conference in 2025 and did not hold an event in 2026.

Edufest, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho

- Edufest is the Northwest's Premiere summer conference for advanced learning with many nationally recognized presenters with Montana renewal units are available to attendees
- **July 20-23, 2026** included Montana AGATE Affiliate meeting and presentations from Dr. Jeb Puryear, University of Montana, sessions: *Gifted Education & MTSS* and *Creativity & Research*

National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

- *NAGC Teacher Summit: Supporting Gifted Students in Your Classroom*, VIRTUAL, February 10-11, 2026. This is an all-virtual event created for teachers, by teachers. After the live sessions, teachers have access to online recordings and materials through September 2026.

Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG)

- OPI Gifted and Talented Program Specialist, Jenny Jarvis, attended CSDPG Event and NAGC in Seattle in November 2024.

Montana Digital Academy (MTDA):

- OPI Session at **Innovation Runs Through It Symposium**; *Gifted Ed on a Shoestring Budget: Making the Most of Limited GT Funds*, Jenny Jarvis, OPI Gifted and Talented Program Support Specialist, July 2024