

POLICY

THE DATA



- Regarding excellence, states' grades ranged from B+ to D (Plucker et al., 2018).
- Regarding closing Excellence Gaps, states' grades ranged from C+ to F (Plucker et al., 2018). "Every state in the nation has Excellence Gaps - in grade 4, grade 8, and high school; in math and in reading" (Plucker et al., 2018, p. 8).
- Only 7 states required universal screening for at least one grade level, despite universal screening being a key step toward closing Excellence Gaps (Plucker et al., 2018).
- Black and Latinx students are not fairly represented in advanced courses due to systemic barriers (Patrick et al., 2020).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enact policy at the highest level possible in order to affect more students.
- Disaggregate achievement data and participation in advanced coursework by subpopulation, so that all stakeholders, including decision-makers, are informed (Patrick et al., 2020). This should include students with multiple exceptionalities.
- Be cognizant of state regulations and policies as well as district policies that may impact children with gifts and talents. Also be knowledgeable about policies that cross district departments such as Special Education Department and English Learners.
- Establish a state accountability system that focuses on growth (Plucker et al., 2018).
- Before passing policy, ask these two questions:
 - "How will this affect our brightest students?"
 - How will this help other students begin to achieve at high levels?" (Plucker et al., 2010, p. 30)



RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION



- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation includes specific state data as well as other information and resources (<https://www.jkcf.org/>)
- The Education Trust (<https://edtrust.org/>)
- National Association for Gifted Children, Gifted by State (<https://www.nagc.org/information-publications/gifted-state>)

REFERENCES

- Patrick, K., Socol, A., & Morgan, I. (2020, January). Inequities in advanced coursework: What's driving them and what leaders can do. The Education Trust. <https://edtrust.org/resource/inequities-in-advanced-coursework/>
- Plucker, J. A., Burroughs, N., & Song, R. (2010, February 4). Mind the other gap: The growing Excellence Gap in k-12 education. Center for Evaluation and Education Policy. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED531840.pdf>
- Plucker, J. A., Glynn, J., Healey, G., & Dettmer A. (2018, March). Equal talents, unequal opportunities: A report card on state support for academically talented low-income students (2nd ed.). Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. <https://www.jkcf.org/research/equal-talents-unequal-opportunities-second-edition-a-report-card-on-state-support-for-academically-talented-low-income-students/>

