



# NAGC FEDERAL ADVOCACY REPORT:



Jacob K. Javits  
Gifted and Talented  
Students Education  
Program

*SPRING 2026*





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is the National Association for Gifted Children’s (NAGC) centerpiece federal priority and the anchor of its annual advocacy efforts. It is the only federal program dedicated exclusively to gifted education, supporting research and evidence-based strategies to improve the identification and development of high-ability students, particularly those from historically underrepresented populations.

Each year, NAGC leads a coordinated, multi-phase advocacy campaign to ensure continued congressional awareness, bipartisan support, and sustained federal investment in the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program. This campaign combines direct congressional engagement, coalition-building, and nationwide member activation to elevate it as a critical equity and education priority.

This report provides an overview of NAGC’s advocacy activities during the spring of 2026 in support of the program, including congressional outreach, member engagement efforts, coalition partnerships, and appropriations monitoring. Together, these activities advanced awareness of the program among federal policymakers and strengthened support for continued investment in gifted education.





## OVERVIEW

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is the only federal initiative dedicated specifically to gifted education research and equity.

**The program supports research-based approaches to:**

- Improve identification of gifted and talented students
- Address the underrepresentation of students from diverse backgrounds in gifted programs
- Develop and disseminate evidence-based instructional practices
- Strengthen the national knowledge base in gifted education

By investing in this program, Congress supports a national effort to ensure that advanced learning opportunities are accessible, equitable, and grounded in research-driven practice.



## WHY ADVOCACY IS NEEDED

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program is a discretionary federal appropriation that must be actively supported each year through the congressional budget process. Without sustained advocacy, the program is vulnerable to stagnation or elimination despite its national importance.

**NAGC's federal advocacy ensures:**

- Continued bipartisan awareness of gifted education as a federal priority
- Protection of funding during annual appropriations negotiations
- Visibility for equity-focused research in gifted identification and services
- Strong constituent engagement from educators, families, and researchers nationwide

This annual advocacy cycle is essential to maintaining the program as the foundation of federal gifted education investment.





# OUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY: KEY ACTIVITIES & MILESTONES

## HILL DAY AND CONGRESSIONAL DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER CAMPAIGN

The 2026 NAGC Hill Day served as the launch point for a broader congressional engagement strategy focused on strengthening bipartisan support for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program through the 'Dear Colleague' letter in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Following Hill Day meetings, NAGC activated its national membership network to encourage constituents to contact their elected officials and advocate for congressional sign-ons to the Dear Colleague letters supporting the program.

This coordinated effort included:

- Direct advocacy during Hill Day meetings with congressional offices
- Nationwide constituent outreach encouraging members to call and email Representatives and Senators
- Targeted mobilization messaging aligned with appropriations timing and committee engagement
- Sustained follow-up communication throughout the spring advocacy window

The Dear Colleague letters served as a critical mechanism for demonstrating bipartisan congressional interest in the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program and reinforcing its importance within the federal appropriations process.





# OUR ADVOCACY STRATEGY: KEY ACTIVITIES & MILESTONES

## CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

NAGC has also continued to advance its appropriations strategy through formal congressional testimony. This spring, written testimony was submitted to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee as well as the Senate Labor Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee in support of continued Javits funding.

## COALITION BUILDING

In January, NAGC officially joined the Coalition for Education Funding (CEF), the nation's oldest and largest coalition of education associations, to provide a strong, unified voice in support of increasing federal investment in education. The coalition maintains an active presence on Capitol Hill, disseminates regular updates through monthly conference calls, and runs an annual campaign to advocate for education funding. In addition, CEF publishes an annual Budget Book which includes a summary of every federal education program and a detailed analysis of the federal investment in education. This year, NAGC will contribute by providing information about the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program for the CEF Budget Book.

As part of that coalition, NAGC co-signed a letter with dozens of other national, state, and local organizations urging congressional appropriations leaders to provide a robust FY 2027 allocation for the Labor–HHS–Education Subcommittee. This is an annual effort spearheaded by CEF, working in conjunction with the Coalition on Human Needs, the Coalition for Health Funding, and the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce. A copy of the letter [can be found here](#).





# ADVOCACY IMPACT



This year’s advocacy campaign significantly strengthened congressional awareness and bipartisan support for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program through a combination of direct engagement and coordinated grassroots mobilization. A central achievement of the campaign was the successful launch of House and Senate Dear Colleague letters advocating for continued funding. These letters provided congressional champions with a

formal mechanism to publicly demonstrate support for the program and were reinforced by a nationwide constituent outreach campaign led by NAGC members. In total, 22 members of Congress signed the Dear Colleague letters, the highest level of participation in **four** years.



## KEY INDICATORS OF IMPACT INCLUDE:

# 50+

Meetings with members of Congress during Hill Day in Washington, DC

# 22

Members of Congress signing the House Dear Colleague letter

# 22

Senators signing the Senate Dear Colleague letter



Bipartisan visibility of the program throughout the appropriations cycle

Together, these efforts elevated the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program as a visible, actively supported federal priority and reinforced its position as the only dedicated federal program for gifted education research and equity.



## FY27 FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

On April 3, 2026, the administration released its FY27 budget proposal, which would eliminate funding for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program—the only federal program dedicated specifically to gifted and talented education. The proposal would fold several K–12 programs into a broader state block grant, ending dedicated federal investment in gifted education at a time when schools continue to need research-based strategies to identify and serve advanced learners from all backgrounds.

On June 4, 2026, the Institute of Education Sciences announced that Javits administration had moved from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to IES, where it will be housed within the National Center for Education Research. While this could better align Javits with federal education research infrastructure, the funding threat intensified on June 9, 2026, when the House Appropriations Committee passed its FY27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) funding bill following the president’s proposal and eliminating Javits funding. The House LHHS bill now moves to the House floor for a vote, though no vote has been scheduled. The Senate Appropriations Committee has begun its work, but no hearing or committee session has been scheduled for the LHHS bill.

**Call to Action:** NAGC members should contact their members of Congress and urge them to protect Javits funding in the FY27 education appropriations bill. Member messages should emphasize that Javits supports research and evidence-based practice to improve identification and services for gifted learners, especially students from historically underrepresented communities.



## LOOKING AHEAD



This year's advocacy campaign reinforced the strength of coordinated congressional engagement and sustained grassroots activation across the NAGC community. The combination of Hill Day meetings, Dear Colleague letter campaigns, coalition building, and nationwide member outreach deepened bipartisan awareness of the program and expanded the reach of constituent voices in the federal appropriations process.

As the appropriations bills begin to move through Congress, NAGC will launch an additional grassroots advocacy campaign to further elevate constituent engagement and reinforce congressional support for the program.

As we move forward, NAGC will continue to build on this momentum by strengthening early-cycle congressional engagement, expanding participation in grassroots advocacy efforts, and refining strategies that connect member action more directly to policy outcomes.

Future campaigns will also focus on enhancing the tracking and communication of advocacy impact so members and stakeholders can more clearly see how their engagement contributes to federal outcomes.

The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program remains a cornerstone of NAGC's federal advocacy agenda, and this work will continue to ensure the program is recognized and supported as the nation's only dedicated federal investment in gifted education research and equity.

