



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310
Phone (503) 947-5600 • Fax (503) 378-5156 • www.ode.state.or.us

February 28, 2008

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Portland Public Schools
501 North Dixon Street
Portland, OR, 97227-1807

Dear Superintendent Smith:

Re: Additional Recommendations Resulting from Investigation of PPS TAG Program

By now you should have received the final report of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) investigation of the Portland Public Schools' Talented and Gifted Education program. The report reflects the findings and observations of the investigators at the time of the investigation. The report included Final Orders and a summary document of investigation survey data.

In addition to the findings and corrective action included in the Final Orders document, the State Superintendent makes the recommendations below for the district's consideration. **These recommendations are advisory and are not based on findings of noncompliance with legal requirements.**

1. The District should examine its identification process to assess whether there are efficiencies that might be implemented to accelerate the identification process and delivery of TAG services. Although the administrative rules do not prescribe a time to complete the identification process, many parents have expressed great concern to ODE staff about the time it takes the district to complete the identification process
2. In schools with high populations of ethnic minorities or students who are culturally different or economically disadvantaged, the District should develop strategies to ensure that teachers will refer potentially eligible TAG students for identification. The strategy should (i) require each school to make a record of the number of and source of referrals and (ii) include a system to monitor whether teachers and other staff are considering their students for referral and are making an adequate number of referrals.