A TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING STUDENTS
PA 19-184 requires schools to inform parents about not only the results of their kids gifted-identification process, but also about HOW the identification was performed (i.e. the school should name the specific areas in which the child was identified as gifted/talented). Children are extremely rarely gifted in every subject area, and knowing whether the child has been identified as gifted in math, language, or science OR talented in drawing or music, is perhaps the most important element of the initial evaluation. Such knowledge, and understanding of the child’s strength area(s), shall allow schools and parents to more effectively meet these SPECIAL NEEDS of Gifted and Talented (G/T) students.

MANDATED ELECTRONIC NOTICE TO PARENTS
PA 19-184 mandates a local or regional board of education shall, upon the identification of a student as gifted and talented, provide electronic notice of such identification to the parent or guardian of such student. The law further outlines that the identification-notification letter also includes reference information on CT’s organizations dealing with gifted education (like CAG), and the responsible administrator at the school and district level.
PA 19-184 HELPS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS NEEDS OF EVERY G/T STUDENT

Section Seven of PA 19-184 clarifies several already mandated rules in force in Connecticut, and has been enacted with an intent to:

a) disclose to the teachers and parents specific areas of giftedness in which a student was identified as Gifted and Talented (G/T)
b) Increase awareness as to particular gifted needs of each student identified as G/T by the school district
c) as a result of both a) and b), facilitate school-parents’ communications about any student identified as G/T within a

IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THIS GIFTED EDUCATION PROVISION WAS ENACTED AS PART OF SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION. IT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN ARE INDEED CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, BOTH ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL.

RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF PA 19-184

Dr. Dori Papa, State Consultant for Gifted and Talented Education, Connecticut State Department of Education (CTSDE) has been appointed to provide information and assistance to educators and parents/guardians related to: awareness about, identification of, and the provision of services to gifted and talented students. (Public Act 17-82) Dori.Papa@ct.gov

CTSDE has published best practices, including Gifted and Talented Education: Guidance Regarding Identification and Services, available at https://portal.ct.gov (Public Act 17-82)

AS OF JULY 1, 2019, CONNECTICUT LAW MANDATES THE FOLLOWING, IN THE AREA OF GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION:

1. Gifted and talented students must be identified in every school in the state --Connecticut General Statutes Sec.10 -76d(a)(1).

2. Schools have to inform parents about not only the results of their kid's gifted-identification process but also about HOW the identification was performed (i.e. the school should name the specific areas in which the child was identified as gifted/talented.) (Public Act 19-184)

3. SDE has someone appointed to provide information and assistance to educators and parents/guardians related to: awareness about, identification of, and the provision of services to gifted and talented students. (Public Act 17-82)

4. SDE has published best practice guidelines, available on SDE website (Public Act 17-82)

5. The Gifted/Talented identification-notification letter to parents must also include the following contact information:
   - Contact information for an employee at the CTSDE.
   - Contact information for responsible educator at student’s school district
   - Contact at state associations that provide support to gifted and talented students.

For more information about identifying gifted and talented children in Connecticut contact Connecticut Association for the Gifted at http://www.CTGifted.org. CAG provides parents, teachers and students with information and support to help alternate learners flourish academically, socially and emotionally.