



Dear Ms. M,

I Need Help Crafting my first Gifted Education LEA Plan!

The deadline for submitting your Gifted Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan to the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is coming up fast—March 17! This plan is a big opportunity to make sure gifted students across your district have the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

What's the Gifted LEA Plan?

Simply put, the Gifted LEA Plan outlines how your district or charter school will serve gifted students. It's your blueprint for making sure gifted education is accessible and effective, and the PED will review it to ensure you're meeting state guidelines. Please check out the New Mexico Gifted Technical Assistance Manual (TAM) 2023 for detailed information and program self-assessments.

Why is it important?

This plan helps ensure that:

1. **All gifted students get the support they need**, no matter their background.
2. **Teachers are prepared** with professional development on best practices for gifted education.
3. **Families and communities are involved**, because their support is key to success.

How do we create it?

1. **Get input from everyone:** Talk to teachers, parents, and community members to make sure the plan reflects everyone's needs.
2. **Review what's working:** What's already in place, and where can you improve?
3. **Set clear goals:** Focus on measurable goals that align with state guidelines and your students' needs.
4. **Create a strategy:** Lay out how you'll identify students, deliver services, and involve families, while also supporting teacher growth.
5. **Review and Revise:** Join CES/TAP on March 4: "Gifted LEA Plan Part II": we will review components 4,5, and 6 and Q/A Session to help you finalize your plans for submittal.
6. **Submit it by March 17:** Once the plan's ready, submit it to the NMPED's Gifted Specialist Christopher Vian (Christopher.Vian@ped.nm.gov) for review.

What's next?

The LEA Plan isn't just paperwork—it's a chance to improve how we serve gifted learners. By working together, we can make sure every gifted student in New Mexico has the chance to reach their full potential. Let's make it happen!

If you need assistance or help looking over your draft, please reach out to me at kmorris@ces.org, I am here to support you and your gifted students!

Kate Morris, MEd Gifted Education

Kate Morris is CES's Gifted TAP Consultant. She has been in gifted education for 10 years as a gifted educator and gifted instructional coach. She works for Central Consolidated School District in northwest New Mexico serving gifted and talented students in CCSD's Gifted, Talented, and Creative Program.