

GIFTED ED MYTH BUSTERS!

Myth: All Children are Gifted

All children have talents and abilities in a multitude of areas but not all children have exceptional academic gifts that require additional support in school. Most people accept that children in performing arts or athletics whose talents are exceptional would go on to additional or different training. It's important to understand that these same characteristics apply to academically gifted students who also need specialized support and guidance to reach their potential.

Myth: Gifted Education Programs are Elitist

Gifted education is all about meeting student needs academically and is not about status. The goal is academic progress, engagement and learning through appropriate challenges just as it would be for a student at any place on the academic spectrum.

Myth: A Student Can't Be Gifted if He's Earning Poor Grades

Underachieving gifted students are found where there is a discrepancy between performance and actual ability. The reasons vary from student to student. Some become bored or frustrated in an unchallenging classroom over time, others try to mask abilities to fit in better socially. Whatever the reason, it is the goal to break this challenging cycle and engage the student in a reason for learning once again.

Myth: Gifted Students are Happy, Popular Well Adjusted in School

Many gifted students can be described this way but some students differ in their emotional and moral intensity, sensitivity to expectations, perfectionism, and deep concerns about societal problems. They can have difficulty sharing interests with peers, feeling more comfortable with adults or older students. It is estimated that 20-25% of gifted children have social or emotional difficulties, about twice as many as the general population.

Myth: A Child Can't Be Gifted if She's in Special Education

Some gifted students also have learning or other disabilities. These "twice-exceptional" students can often go undetected because the disabilities can mask the gifts. While challenging, it is possible to develop curricula to address both issues with appropriate teamwork within the school.

Myth: Acceleration Options, Such as Early Entrance or Grade Skipping, Can Be Socially Harmful

Studies have shown that many gifted students are happier with older students who share their intellectual interests than they are with same-age peers.

(All information gathered from the NAGC website.)