



UNDERSTANDING GIFTED

We are in this together!



The State of Mississippi defines “Intellectually Gifted Children” and “Gifted Education Programs” as follows:

- “Intellectually Gifted Children” shall mean those students who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process.
- “Gifted Education Programs” (GEP) shall mean special programs of instruction for intellectually gifted children in grades 2-12, ... in the public elementary and secondary schools of this state.
- Such programs shall be designed to meet the individual needs of gifted children and shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the district.

So how do we “spot” gifted kids?

The Bright Child

- ❖ Knows the answers
- ❖ Is interested
- ❖ Is attentive
- ❖ Has good ideas
- ❖ Works hard
- ❖ Answers the questions
- ❖ Top group
- ❖ Listens with interest
- ❖ Learns with ease
- ❖ 6-8 repetitions for mastery

The Gifted Child

- ❖ Asks the questions
- ❖ Is highly curious
- ❖ Is mentally and physically involved
- ❖ Has wild, silly ideas
- ❖ Plays around, yet tests well
- ❖ Discusses in detail, elaborates
- ❖ Beyond the group
- ❖ Shows strong feeling and opinions
- ❖ Already knows
- ❖ 1-2 repetitions for mastery

Gifted students are plagued by Asynchronous Development

*Uneven development... For example, motor skills may lag behind cognitive and conceptual abilities, particularly in younger children.

* Can result in frustration and emotional outbursts.

Often a gifted child's strengths can result in problems.

- Independent; prefers to work alone; reliant on self
- Seeks to organize people and things
- Strong sense of humor
- May reject parent and peer input
- Constructs complicated rules; often seen as bossy
- Peers may misunderstand humor: may "clown" for attention

Strengths/Problems

- *Acquires and retains information quickly
- *High expectations of self and others
- *Creative/inventive, likes new ways of doing things

- *Impatient with others: dislikes basic routine
- *Intolerant, perfectionist; may become depressed
- *May be seen as disruptive and out of step

Strengths/Problems

*Intense concentration;
persistence in areas of
interest

*Enjoys problem solving;
understands concepts
procedures

* Neglects duties; resists
interruption; stubborn

* Resists routine practice;
questions teaching

Strengths/Problems

* Sensitivity, empathy;
desire to be accepted by
others

* Sensitivity to criticism
or peer rejection

Imposter Syndrome

Sometimes a gifted child "feels like a fraud".

- Gifted kids discount their success, attributing it to luck, not real ability.
- They fear that anytime they could be found out.
- The more successful, the greater the inner stress.
- Now, people have expectations of you that you may not be able to meet.

Simran Bhargava

Another characteristic seen in gifted children is
Dabrowski's Over-excitabilities.

- Psychomotor... may need lots of movements... could mean difficulty settling down to sleep... nervous tics
- Over-excitabile senses..."Cut the label out of my shirt." Adverse reaction to smells, loud sounds, certain lights. Can't "tune things out."
- Emotional...Intensity of emotion..."Happier when happy, sadder when sad, angrier when angry."

Referral to Placement Process

- Students may be referred by a teacher, administrator, counselor, parent, peer, self, or any other person having reason to believe the student may be intellectually gifted.
- A child must score 90% or above on three of these assessments:
 - Achievement test scores (in at least one area)
 - Otis-Lennon School Ability Test
 - Raven Progressive Matrix
 - Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS) (in at least one area)

Referral to Placement Process cont.

Then, he/she must score 91% or above on an individual intelligence test administered by a licensed psychologist or psychometrist.

Important Information to Remember

Make Up Policy

- Gifted students will be given two school days in which to complete and return appropriate make-up work.
- General Ed teachers will need to establish a systematic and specific procedure for posting assignments.
- Homework assignments for gifted students should not be made a responsibility of another student.
- Gifted students will be required to make up class work only in those areas in which mastery has not previously been demonstrated.

Important Information to remember

- Gifted students may have fewer recorded grades as a result of participation in the gifted program.
- Classroom and homework assignments for gifted students may be compacted in which minimum quantities may be accepted.
- Gifted students are not always the best students because of some of the characteristics that have been mentioned.
- Communication between the gifted teacher and general ed teacher is key to the success of gifted students.

Sites for additional information

- <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>
- National Association for Gifted Children
- Mississippi Association for Gifted Children
- Mississippi Department of Education