

The Different Types of Gifted & Talented Students

There are a wide variety of profiles that encompass students who fit the “Gifted and Talented” classification. While some may be obvious and are easily identified, other students often go unidentified throughout their entire educational careers. Below you will find a brief synopsis of some of these student profiles.

Type 1 ~ The Successful

- Learns well & scores high
- Liked by adults and peers
- Conforms/no behavioral problems
- 90% are identified as gifted
- Obvious candidates

Type 2 ~ The Creative

- Highly creative
- Appears obstinate/defiant
- Does not conform
- Questions rules/authority
- At risk of dropping out



Type 3 ~ The Underground

- Denies talents ~ wants to fit in
- Often middle school females
- Boys prioritizing athletics over school
- Resists challenges
- Insecure and frustrated

Type 4 ~ The At-Risk

- Angry with adults and society
- Low self-esteem/depressed
- Feels rejected
- Inconsistent at school
- At risk of dropping out



Type 5 ~ The Twice Exceptional

- Physically or emotionally challenged
- Potential learning disability
- Not proficient in English
- The school system focuses on their weaknesses
- Typically is not identified

Type 6 ~ The Autonomous Learner

- Very few operate at this level at an early age
- Works well within the school system
- Uses the school system to create new opportunities
- Respected by adults and peers
- Independent and self-directed

