

Common Gifted Myths:

- Gifted students are a homogeneous group, all high achievers.
- Gifted students do not need help: If they are really gifted, they can manage on their own.
- Gifted students have fewer problems than others because their intelligence and abilities somehow exempt them from the hassles of daily life.
- The future of a gifted student is assured: A world of opportunities lies before the student.
- Gifted students are self-directed: They know where they are heading.
- The social and emotional development of the gifted student is at the same level as his or her intellectual development.
- Gifted underachievers need to be pushed to try harder; they need to get organized.
- Gifted students are social isolates.
- Gifted students are like cream that rises to the top in a classroom.
- Gifted kids are so smart they do fine with or without special programs.
- Gifted and talented means the same thing.
- Gifted students should achieve to high standards in the classroom.
- The primary value of the gifted student lies in his or her brainpower.
- The gifted student's family always prizes his or her abilities.
- Gifted students need to serve as examples to others and should always assume extra responsibility.
- Gifted students can accomplish anything they put their minds to. All they have to do is apply themselves.
- Gifted students are naturally creative and do not need encouragement.
- Gifted students are easy to raise and a welcome addition to any classroom.

Adapted from College Planning for Gifted Students, 2nd edition, by Sandra Berger, 1994.