

CHARACTERISTICS OF TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

STRENGTHS	NEEDS
2E students are gifted learners who often display strengths in the following areas:	2E students often display needs in the following areas:
COGNITIVE	
✓ Verbal and/or visual spatial abilities ✓ Problem-solving and reasoning abilities ✓ Background information and vocabulary ✓ Making connections between events, ideas, and situations ✓ Grasping abstract concepts—they are often “whole-to-part” learners who see the big picture ✓ High-level thinking tasks with complexity ✓ Creativity and imagination—they often share interesting or “out-of-the box” ideas ✓ Curiosity—they ask a lot of questions, at times challenging information or authority	✓ Memory—particularly rote or short-term memory ✓ Executive functioning—the ability to plan, initiate, organize, execute, and shift one’s own cognitive effort ✓ Processing speed—the ability to take in, process, and apply new information quickly ✓ Working memory—the ability to hold and use information in short term memory. ✓ Language—particularly word-retrieval, and organization of ideas. ✓ Auditory and sequential processing
MATHEMATICS	
✓ Displaying strong grasp of concepts ✓ Thinking logically and symbolically at high levels ✓ Coming up with new or alternative solutions to problems ✓ Relating math concepts to novel situations	✓ Computing ✓ Retaining and recalling math facts ✓ Processing sequentially (following algorithms, showing your work, explaining how you got your answer) ✓ Short quizzes along the way rather than lengthy assessments
READING	
✓ Listening comprehension (deeper meaning, making connections, inferential thinking, insights) ✓ Using high-level vocabulary and sharing vast background knowledge ✓ Applying shared inquiry (high-level discussion and questioning) ✓ Grasping themes and getting the main ideas	✓ Phonemic awareness and decoding (phonics) ✓ Oral reading fluency (pace and smoothness) ✓ Memory, recalling accurate/adequate details
WRITING	
✓ Being creative and showing originality of thought ✓ Coming up with content, ideas, information ✓ Elaborating verbally and providing unlimited description and detail ✓ Incorporating high-level vocabulary	✓ Representing ideas on paper ✓ Applying basic skills (handwriting, capitalization, punctuation and spelling) ✓ Organizing, sequencing, and elaborating on ideas (what is important, what is salient, what is first, what is next, etc.)