



The Successful

This student...

- ◆ Achieves
- ◆ Gets good grades
- ◆ Chooses safe activities
- ◆ Is eager for approval
- ◆ Has good academic self-concept
- ◆ Accepts and conforms
- ◆ Is a consumer of knowledge
- ◆ Is admired by peers
- ◆ Is liked by teachers

Challenges

- ◇ Fear of failure
- ◇ Self-critical
- ◇ Fixed mindset
- ◇ Avoids risk
- ◇ Dependent
- ◇ Adults tend to overestimate their abilities, and assume they will be fine on their own



The Autonomous Learner

This student...

- ◆ Is self-confident
- ◆ Has a Growth Mindset
- ◆ Is self-directed
- ◆ Works independently
- ◆ Is intrinsically motivated
- ◆ Seeks challenge
- ◆ Is ambitious and excited
- ◆ Stands up for convictions
- ◆ Demonstrates resiliency
- ◆ Is willing to take risks

- ◆ Is admired and accepted by peers
- ◆ Shows tolerance and respect for others
- ◆ Viewed as capable and responsible by adults
- ◆ Is successful in diverse environments

Challenges

- ◇ May not view academics as a top priority
- ◇ May feel inhibited by time/space restrictions
- ◇ Susceptible to psychological strain due to success

What do these students need?

- More support, not less
- Guidance in direction and increased independence
- Support for risk-taking
- Opportunities related to passion areas
- Friends of all ages
- To be listened to
- The removal of time and space restrictions for learning
- Long-term integrated plan of study
- Wide variety of accelerated options
- Facilitation of continual growth
- Mentors and cultural brokers
- Help coping with the psychological costs of success



The Creative

This student...

- ◆ Is highly Creative
- ◆ Can be impulsive
- ◆ Is high energy
- ◆ Stands up for convictions
- ◆ Is honest and direct
- ◆ Has a heightened sensitivity
- ◆ Perseveres when interested
- ◆ Is entertaining to peers
- ◆ Is uncertain about social rules
- ◆ Questions rules and policies
- ◆ Has a developed sense of justice

Challenges

- ◇ Easily bored and frustrated
- ◇ Impatient and defensive
- ◇ Challenges teacher
- ◇ May have poor self-control
- ◇ Viewed as rebellious
- ◇ May engage in power struggles
- ◇ Adults underestimate their abilities, want them to conform, and do not usually view them as gifted

What do these students need?

- To be connected with others
- Support for creativity
- Mentorships
- Less pressure to conform
- Respect for their goals and ideas
- Tolerance
- Opportunities to pursue passions
- Affirmation of strengths
- Direct & clear communication
- Permission to express feelings
- Strategies to cope with potential psychological vulnerabilities
- Thoughtful placement with teachers
- To practice tact, flexibility, self-awareness, & self-control
- Direct instruction in interpersonal skills and appropriate behavior

What Does Giftedness Look Like?

Most people think of gifted children as those who excel in school, are well behaved, and are well liked by their peers and teachers. In reality, very few gifted students actually fit this profile, even though the majority of gifted programs are filled with this type of student. Many adults are under the false assumption that gifted students do not need additional support and will do just fine on their own. Gifted students represent a diverse group with a wide variety of needs. While each gifted child is unique and will have needs specific to their situation, these six profiles highlight the traits, challenges, and needs of gifted students as described by George Betts and Maureen Neihart (2010).



The Underground

This student...

- ◆ Desires to belong socially
- ◆ Is seen as average and successful
- ◆ Feels conflicted, guilty, & insecure
- ◆ Is ambivalent about achievement
- ◆ Internalizes societal ambiguities and conflicts
- ◆ Devalues or denies talent
- ◆ Drops out of gifted or advanced classes
- ◆ Moves between peer groups
- ◆ Viewed as compliant

Challenges

- ◇ Diminished sense of self
- ◇ Views achievement behaviors as betrayal of their social group
- ◇ Unwilling to take risks
- ◇ Not connected to the teacher or the class
- ◇ Feelings of uncertainty and pressure
- ◇ Unsure of their right to feel and express emotions

What do these students need?

- College and career planning
- Gifted role models
- Models for lifelong learning
- Freedom to make choices
- Not to be compared with siblings
- Build multicultural appreciation
- Concepts framed as societal phenomenon
- Welcoming learning environments
- Develop support groups
- Cultural Brokering
- Open discussions about class, racism, sexism
- Direct instruction of social skills



The Twice-Exceptional

This student...

- ◆ Seems average or below
- ◆ Makes connections easily
- ◆ Demonstrates inconsistent work
- ◆ Is similar to younger students in social-emotional functioning
- ◆ May be disruptive or off-task
- ◆ Is a good problem solver
- ◆ Thinks conceptually
- ◆ Enjoys novelty and complexity
- ◆ Is disorganized
- ◆ Is slow in information processing
- ◆ Has poor academic self-concept

Challenges

- ◇ Learned helplessness
- ◇ Intense frustration and anger
- ◇ Doesn't know where to belong
- ◇ Mood disorders
- ◇ Prone to discouragement
- ◇ May not be able to cope with gifted peer group
- ◇ May be viewed as weird
- ◇ Often underestimated in their potential, and not viewed as gifted
- ◇ Seen only for disability
- ◇ Can be a behavior problem

What do these students need?

- Focus on strengths while accommodating disability
- Coping strategies
- Recognition and confirmation of gifted abilities
- Skill development
- Monitoring for additional disorders/disabilities
- To learn to self-advocate
- Time with gifted peers
- Work on perseverance
- Challenge in areas of strength
- Provide risk-taking opportunities
- Teach how to set and reach realistic goals
- Direct instruction of self-regulation strategies
- Creative and collaborative problem solving – what will it take for this child to succeed?



The At-Risk

This student...

- ◆ Is reckless & manipulative
- ◆ Has low academic achievement
- ◆ Is Defensive
- ◆ Pursues outside interests
- ◆ Is resentful and angry
- ◆ Is thrill seeking
- ◆ Produces inconsistent work
- ◆ Is often creative
- ◆ Criticizes self and others
- ◆ Will work for the relationship

Challenges

- ◇ Poor self-concept
- ◇ Resistant to authority
- ◇ Not motivated by teacher driven rewards
- ◇ Peers are often judgmental
- ◇ Seen as troubled/irresponsible
- ◇ May be depressed
- ◇ Creates crises and causes disruptions
- ◇ Unrealistic expectations
- ◇ Rebellious behaviors
- ◇ May be self-isolating

What do these students need?

- Safety and structure
- An individualized program
- Accountability
- Direction and short-term goals
- Professional counseling
- Extra-curricular activities
- Mentorships & in-depth studies
- Avoid power struggles
- Minimize punishments
- Open communication
- Confidence in ability to overcome obstacles
- Maintain high expectations
- Diagnostic testing
- Non-traditional study skills
- Positive home and school relationship
- Academic coaching
- Resilience training
- Advocacy for needs