



Critical Fact Sheet

A Publication of the Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Can Students with Disabilities be Gifted and Talented? Yes, They Can!

Twice Exceptional Students

Twice exceptional (2e) students have characteristics of gifted students with the potential for high achievement and give evidence of one or more disabilities as defined by federal or state eligibility criteria. This category of students makes up one of the smallest percentages of the gifted population even though students may be identified in five categories in Kentucky. These categories are Creativity, General Intellectual Ability, Leadership, Specific Academic Aptitude and the Visual and Performing Arts.

School staff should take into consideration environmental, cultural and disabling conditions which may mask a child's true abilities. The gifted regulation specifically states students with an Individual Learning Plan, students who are disadvantaged and underachieving students should be considered for gifted and talented identification and services.

Myths about 2e Students:

1. Gifted students must be good at everything.
2. Gifted students are always mature, self-directed and well-behaved.
3. Gifted students don't need extra help. They are smart enough to figure it out for themselves.

Three profiles of unidentified 2e students:

1. Profile #1 – “Just Try Harder” - Students who are identified as gifted, but not identified with a learning disability. These students' strengths may compensate for the disability and therefore the disability is not identified.
2. Profile #2 – “Just Average” - Students who are identified for a disability or disabilities, but are not identified as gifted due to the focus on their weaknesses.
3. Profile #3 – “Can't Be Gifted” - 1Students who are neither identified for a disability or for a gift/talent. These students' abilities compensate for the disability and therefore the student is seen as average or typical.

How to Identify:

1. Formal Assessments
 - Individually administered intelligence test (look for subtest discrepancies)
 - Diagnostic achievement tests
 - Tests of aptitude
 - Test of creativity
2. Informal assessments
 - Evaluation by experts or teachers
 - Classroom observations
 - Peer evaluations
 - Auditions (performing)



How to Support 2e Students:

Four Key Elements for 2e Students

- Nurturing environment - to encourage the development of their potential
- Learning Strategies - to meet their needs including curriculum that challenges their thinking and promotes high-level problem solving
- Social and Emotional Support - to help them develop an awareness of self and understanding of their own needs
- Strength-based/ Interest-based Programming and Interventions - to provide challenging learning opportunities in the child's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

Resources:

Websites:

- [Kentucky Department of Education Gifted Education Webpage](#)
- [National Association for Gifted Children](#)
- [Colorado Department for Gifted Education](#)
- [Gifted Guru](#)
- [Byrdseed](#)
- [Hoagies Gifted Education Page](#)
- [Council for Exceptional Children - TAG](#)

Books:

- *Twice Exceptional Gifted Children: Understanding, Teaching, and Counseling Gifted Students* by Beverly Trail Ed.D.
- *Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential* by Peg Dawson, Richard Guare
- *Different Minds: Gifted Children with AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome and Other Learning Deficits* by Deirdre V. Lovecky
- *Kingore Observation Inventory* by Bertie W. Kingore Ph.D.

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