



# MYTHS ABOUT GIFTED STUDENTS

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS WILL ACHIEVE WITHOUT GUIDANCE.**

**FACT:** Without guidance and support, gifted students may lose motivation or underachieve.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN A LARGE QUANTITY OF WORK AT AVERAGE GRADE LEVEL.**

**FACT:** Gifted students need a high degree of educational challenge, not more work at an average or repetitious level.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS ARE "TEACHER PLEASERS" AND EASY TO TEACH.**

**FACT:** In order for gifted students to maintain high levels of achievement, teachers must make curricular adjustments.

Without appropriate modifications, gifted students may develop behavior problems.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS WILL MAKE STRAIGHT A'S.**

**FACT:** Gifted students will not always achieve, especially if unmotivated.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS ARE OFTEN SOCIALLY POPULAR WITH PEERS.**

**FACT:** Gifted students are often ostracized socially, especially at the secondary level.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS ARE NEARLY ALWAYS FROM UPPER MIDDLE CLASS PROFESSIONAL FAMILIES.**

**FACT:** Gifted students are from diverse racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS LEARN BEST ON THEIR OWN.**

**FACT:** Gifted students benefit from being grouped with their intellectual peers for a significant part of their instructional day.

**MYTH: EXTRA HELP FOR GIFTED STUDENTS FOSTERS SNOBBERY AND IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO AN ELITIST CLASS.**

**FACT:** Giftedness is fragile. Every child deserves an education that is appropriate to individual needs. Children at both extremes of the ability spectrum need special education.

**MYTH: GIFTED STUDENTS ARE BEST SERVED WHEN TUTORING.**

**FACT:** When gifted students consistently tutor others, often they are not learning anything new. This can create unhealthy self-esteem issues for both the tutored and the gifted student.