



Gifted Students in New York State

New York State Definition

Gifted students show an increased ability or potential to do well in academic areas and/or visual and performing arts. This includes students who may need educational programs or services beyond those usually provided by the regular school program in order to realize their full potential.

A school district's definition of the gifted program and the way they identify students should be in line with the state definition.

How do you know if your child is gifted?

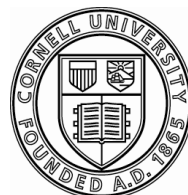
Students starting public school in New York for the first time must be screened to see if they are gifted. For most students this happens in kindergarten, but it can happen at any age for students coming from a private or out of state school.

- For students entering school in the fall, the screening must take place by December 1. For students entering later in the year, the screening must take place within 15 days of entry.
- The screening must have a section that tests language development and must be given in a student's first language.
- If the student is found to possibly be gifted, the superintendent and the parents or guardian must be told.

In order for a student to participate in a gifted program a referral for further testing must come from a parent, teacher, or administrator and the parent or guardian must give permission.

- New York State does not require schools to provide gifted education programs.
- There is not consistent funding in this area, so the programs offered are different in every school.
- If a school district uses NY State funds designated for gifted programs, it must provide those services. Services include identifying students, providing programs, and program evaluation.

The New York State Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRC) can give you information and ideas to become more involved in your child's education and work together with the school. For more information, visit us on the web at www.nyspirc.org.



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Characteristics of Giftedness

Visual / Performing Arts

- Outstanding sense of spatial relationships
- Unusual ability for expressing feelings or moods through art, dance, drama, music
- Good motor coordination
- Wants to produce her "own product"
- Observant

Leadership

- Takes on responsibility
- High expectations for self and others
- Can express himself in an easy to understand way
- Can see and understand consequences of decisions
- Makes good decisions
- Likes structure
- Well liked by peers
- Self-confident
- Organized

Creative Thinking

- Independent thinker
- Shows originality in writing and speaking
- Comes up with many solutions to problems
- Has a strong sense of humor
- Creates and invents
- Challenged by creative tasks
- Improvises often

Specific Academic Ability

- Can easily memorize
- High level of understanding for subject area
- Learns basic skills and knowledge quickly
- Reads a lot in an area of interest
- High academic success in special interest area
- Excited about projects related to her special interest area

General Intellectual Ability

- Understands and puts together complex ideas
- Processes information in complex ways
- Observant
- Excited about new ideas
- Enjoys brainstorming
- Learns quickly
- Uses a large vocabulary
- Curious
- Self starter

Resources for families:

www.agateny.com

www.nagc.org

www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/gt

Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)
Families and Communities Together with Schools

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