

Gifted Education Resources At Your Fingertips

An Overview Compiled by the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY)

Organizations Supporting Wisconsin's Gifted Students

Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY) – The WCATY mission is to nurture Wisconsin's most academically talented youth by providing and encouraging programs that support, motivate and challenge them.

- Contact Information: phone – 608-271-1617; e-mail – info@wcaty.org; website – www.wcaty.org.
- WCATY offers a variety of programs during the school year and throughout the summer for academically talented young people in elementary through high school. WCATY's District Co-op program, which brings curriculum to students in their schools via online and face-to-face forums, is managed in cooperation with schools. Contact WCATY for details.
- An annual WCATY School/District Membership is \$125. This includes three newsletters per year, notification of all programs and updates via listserv and mailings, access to WCATY resources, and eligibility for Co-op participation.

Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted (WATG) – The WATG mission is to provide assistance in meeting the varied needs of gifted and talented individuals and their advocates. WATG believes that the opportunity for maximizing human potential is both a right and a necessity. Therefore, its outreach efforts - educational opportunities, resources, and ongoing support - reflect a commitment to this goal.

- Contact Information: phone - 920-991-9177; e-mail – watg@focol.org; website – www.watg.org.
- WATG Goals: 1. Increase public awareness of and understanding for the needs of gifted individuals and their potential contributions to society. 2. Strengthen channels of communication among all those interested in the developing and nurturing of high potential. 3. Offer a variety of relevant educational opportunities which meet the needs of our various constituencies. 4. Provide referral services for persons seeking professional consultation regarding concerns related to giftedness and talent development. 5. Facilitate the sharing of research data and resources which support multiple facets of gifted/talented education. 6. Foster effective programs which maximize the development of talent in all individuals including involvement in technological advances. 7. Promote political action on local, state, and national levels.
- An annual WATG Membership for Institutions is \$80. Membership includes voting privileges, monthly bulletins, reduced rates at all WATG workshops and conferences, and information resource services. (Institutional members receive three copies of bulletins/newsletters.)

Assessment & Evaluation Services

Schools are often able to provide their own achievement and aptitude tests to assess individual students, but additional resources are available that connect students and their families to a vast network of programs and educational opportunities.

Simply offering the opportunities to parents is a way of providing valuable assistance.

Midwest Academic Talent Search (MATS) – This assessment service for gifted students is available through the Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University. CTD has been serving gifted students since 1981. MATS is based on the philosophy that early and accurate assessment of exceptional academic abilities enables the development of appropriate and individualized curriculum. MATS provides this assessment for 3rd-9th grade students. Students qualify for MATS in the following ways: state test scores, achievement test scores, past talent search participation, qualifying for a school gifted program and nomination by parent or teacher. MATS is out-of-level testing and the instruments used are the ACT, SAT and EXPLORE. These test, when given out-of-level, can discern different levels of ability in many content areas and are, therefore, far better measures of the students' intellectual abilities than the standardized in-grade achievement tests students typically take.

- Contact Information: phone – 847-491-3782; website – www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats
- Individual students may register online. Schools have the option to register students as a group, which then provides them with the information on scores, curriculum options, and statistics. Families will receive student scores, score reports and explanations, curriculum guides and recommendations, statistical analysis, and information on programs for students (such as the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth's programs). Students will continue to receive program information and scholarship opportunities through their graduation from high school.
- There is a fee for assessment (approximately \$50). Financial aid is available. MATS is a legitimate, useful tool and the benefits do justify the costs.

Family Achievement Clinic – The mission of the Family Achievement Clinic is to provide psychological services to children, adolescents, and adults. Services address a wide range of developmental issues. Specialties include school underachievement, educational planning for gifted, school placement, social adjustment, and behavior and conduct. The staff is composed of licensed psychologists, school psychologists, and social workers, including Mike Cornale who has extensive experience in working with gifted students who struggle with underachievement.

- Contact Information: phone (Oconomowoc Office) – 262-567-4560; (Wauwatosa Office) – 414-771-7273; (Madison Office) – 608-274-6266
- Call for more information and the scope of services available to families. Services are available for children and adults.
- Dr. Sylvia Rimm initially founded the Family Achievement Clinic to assist children in the areas of giftedness and creativity.

The Best Books & Research

Assouline, S. & Lupkowski-Shoplik, A. (2003). Developing Mathematical Talent: A Guide for Challenging and Educating Gifted Students. Texas: Prufrock Press. **ISBN:** 1882664922

- A guide for parents and educators to educating the mathematically gifted child

Boothe, D. & Stanley, J.C. (Eds.). (2004). In the Eyes of the Beholder: Critical Issues for Diversity in Gifted Education. Texas: Prufrock Press. **ISBN:** 1-59363-004-2

- This book addresses several critical questions including the following: How does gifted education serve special populations, including a variety of culturally diverse populations? How does education deal with these children today, and how can we improve their education? How do gender and/or socio-economic diversity affect gifted education?

Cline, S. & Schwartz, D. (1999). Diverse Populations of Gifted Children: Meeting Their Needs in the Regular Classroom and Beyond. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. **ISBN:** 0133999084

- Written to help classroom teachers identify and plan for gifted children from special populations, including children with disabilities, minorities, the learning disabled, preschoolers, the exceptionally gifted, gifted females and underachievers

Colangelo, N. & Davis, G. (Eds.). (2002). Handbook of Gifted Education (3rd Edition). New Jersey: Allyn & Bacon. **ISBN:** 0205340636

Davidson, J., Davidson, B. & Vanderkam, L. (2004). Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our Brightest Minds. New York: Simon & Schuster. **ISBN:** 0743254600

- This book provides a look at how our nation neglects children of exceptional intelligence and asks us to consider the potential loss to American society
- www.geniusdenied.com

Delisle, J.R. (1991). Guiding the Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Youth: A Practical Guide for Educators and Counselors. United Kingdom: The Longman Group. **ISBN:** 0801305683

- A practical guide to dealing with social and emotional issues

Halsted, J.W. (2002). Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School (2nd Edition). Arizona: Great Potential Press. **ISBN:** 0910707510

- *Roeper Review* says "...should be on the shelf of every school library, whether that school offers gifted programming or not."

Landrum, M.S., Callahan, C.M. & Shaklee, B.D. (Eds.). (2001). Aiming for Excellence: Gifted Program Standards. Texas: Prufrock Press. **ISBN:** 1882664728

Milgram, R.M. (1991). Counseling Gifted and Talented Children: A Guide for Teachers, Counselors, and Parents. Bristol, UK: Ablex Publishing. **ISBN:** 0893917249

- Provides readers with an understanding of the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students, awareness of ways to help these children, and an introduction to available guidance strategies and materials

National Association for Gifted Children. (2004). Essential Readings in Gifted Education, 12 Volume Collection. Available at www.nagc.org.

1. Definitions & Conceptions of Giftedness by Robert J. Sternberg and Sally M. Reis
2. Identification of Students for Gifted and Talented Programs by Joseph S. Renzulli and Sally M. Reis
3. Grouping and Acceleration Practices in Gifted Education by Linda E. Brody and Sally M. Reis
4. Curriculum for Gifted and Talented Students by Joyce VanTassel-Baska and Sally M. Reis
5. Differentiation for Gifted and Talented Students by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Sally M. Reis
6. Culturally Diverse and Underserved Populations of Gifted Students by Alexinia Y. Baldwin and Sally M. Reis
7. Twice-Exceptional and Special Populations of Gifted Students by Susan Baum and Sally M. Reis
8. Social/Emotional Issues, Underachievement, and Counseling of Gifted and Talented Students by Sidney M. Moon and Sally M. Reis
9. Artistically and Musically Talented Students by Enid Zimmerman and Sally M. Reis
10. Creativity and Giftedness by Donald J. Treffinger and Sally M. Reis
11. Program Evaluation in Gifted Education by Carolyn M. Callahan and Sally M. Reis
12. Public Policy in Gifted Education by James J. Gallagher and Sally M. Reis

Reilly, J.M. (1992). Mentorship: The Essential Guide for Schools and Businesses. Arizona: Great Potential Press. **ISBN:** 0910707189

- This book describes a highly successful mentorship program in 'how to' terms that are easily applied and adaptable to a variety of situations." James T. Webb, Ph.D., Co-Director, SENG

Rogers, K. (2002). Reforming Gifted Education: Matching the Program to the Child. Arizona: Great Potential Press. **ISBN:** 0910707464

- This is THE book for parents and educators planning an educational program for a gifted child. It provides everything you need to prepare, negotiate, and execute the best possible educational options.

Schmitz, C. & Galbraith, J. (1985). Managing the Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted: A Teacher's Survival Guide. Minnesota: Free Spirit Publishing. **ISBN:** 0915793059

- 30+ easy-to-use strategies for teachers to help gifted students develop socially, emotionally, and intellectually

Sousa, D. (2002) How the Gifted Brain Learns. California: Corwin Press. **ISBN:** 076193829X

Tomlinson, C.A. (2001). How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms. Virginia: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development. **ISBN:** 0871205122

- Practical approaches to differentiating instruction for students

Smutney, J., Walker, S. & Meckstroth, E. (1997). Teaching Young Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom: Identifying, Nurturing, and Challenging Ages 4-9. Minnesota: Free Spirit Publishing. **ISBN:** 1575420171

Kay, K. (Ed.). (2000). Uniquely Gifted: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Twice Exceptional Students. New Hampshire: Avocus Publishing. **ISBN:** 189076504X

- The book is a collection of 40 articles by parents, teachers, researchers, administrators, and students addressing educational options for gifted students who also have a disability

Southern, S. T. & Jones, E. D. (Eds.). (1991). Academic Acceleration of Gifted Students. New York: Teachers College Press. **ISBN:** 0807730688.

- A comprehensive textbook on acceleration, with chapters on early acceptance to kindergarten or to college, affective development of acceleration of gifted students, identification of good candidates

VanTassel-Baska, J. & Little, C. (1991). Content Based Curriculum for High Ability Learners. Texas: Prufrock Press. **ISBN:** 1882664787

- This publication of the National Association for Gifted Children illustrates award-winning curriculum units in language arts, social studies and science.

Webb, J.T., Meckstroth, E.A. & Tolan, S.S. (1989). Guiding the Gifted Child: A Practical Source for Parents & Teachers. Arizona: Great Potential Press. **ISBN:** 0910707006

- One of the most popular books in the field

Winebrenner, S. (2001). Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom: Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use to Meet the Academic Needs of the Gifted and Talented. (CD-Rom Edition). Minnesota: Free Spirit Publishing. **ISBN:** 1575421011.

- This is an excellent and pragmatic guide to modifying curriculum for gifted elementary and middle school students in the regular classroom

Curriculum Options

Acceleration is a much maligned and misunderstood option for gifted young people. Although we often think of acceleration as grade skipping, this is only one of the accelerative options. Schools need to consider ALL accelerative options available to meet the needs of gifted students, as they work and are very cost effective. There are two excellent resources to help educators and families better understand accelerative options, assess the value of acceleration, and determine what should be done.

- The first resource will help define and explain accelerative options. Don't let the title fool you. This is a very pragmatic look at accelerative options. The text is [A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students](#). The text is available for download at <http://nationdeceived.org/>. Acceleration is a powerful educational ally, but it's a strategy that requires participation of parents as well as sensitivity to individual needs and circumstances. The report is designed not only to persuade readers of the value of acceleration, but also to help schools administer acceleration programs effectively.
- The second resource is a tool for assessing the readiness of a child to be accelerated through grade skipping. It is easy to use and inexpensive. The tool is the [Iowa Acceleration Scale Manual: A Guide for Whole-Grade Acceleration](#). It was created by Susan Assouline, Nicholas Colangelo, Ann Lupkowski-Shoplik, and Jonathan Lipscomb at the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa. It provides a systematic and thorough approach to considering and implementing academic acceleration for gifted and talented students in grades K-8.

Differentiation helps teachers adjust curriculum within the classroom to meet the needs of individual students. Differentiation is not a panacea. It will not meet the needs of most highly gifted students. Still, it is a useful strategy, which, when used well, can meet some students' needs fairly easily. There are three exceptional resources for differentiating curriculum:

- Winebrenner, S. (2001). [Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom: Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use to Meet the Academic Needs of the Gifted and Talented](#). (CD-Rom Edition). Minnesota: Free Spirit Publishing. **ISBN:** 1575421011. This is an excellent and pragmatic guide to modifying curriculum for gifted elementary and middle school students in the regular classroom
- Smutney, J., Walker, S. & Meckstroth, E. (1997). [Teaching Young Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom: Identifying, Nurturing, and Challenging Ages 4-9](#). Minnesota: Free Spirit Publishing. **ISBN:** 1575420171
- Tomlinson, C.A. (2001). [How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms](#). Virginia: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development. **ISBN:** 0871205122

Alternative Curriculum – The following are options for alternatives to the regular school curriculum offered by outside agencies. All are of high quality and offered through reputable organizations. This list is NOT comprehensive. It simply covers some of the most often utilized programs. Prices for participation vary.

- **WCATY District Co-op Courses** -- Through this program, school districts collaborate with WCATY to develop accelerated courses for their students. The courses are delivered via WCATY's online community and several face-to-face meetings. Each course involves approximately 4-5 schools/school districts working together. Having 4-5 school districts participate in each course provides a critical mass of students and working with school districts in a particular region allows us to include a face-to-face component in the course. The schools work in concert with WCATY's staff and a course instructor to develop the course curriculum, determine

the course schedule, and approve the student assessment process. By involving school faculty in the planning process, we are able to craft a course that meets student needs but also fulfills content requirements and state standards. Schools must be WCATY members to participate. Contact WCATY for more information: www.wcaty.org, 608-271-1617.

- **Aventa Learning** – Online courses for students. Details can be found at <http://www.aventallearning.com/index.html> . Aventa specializes in the distribution of technology based K-12 Online Courses, Classroom Resources, Independent Study Courses, Credit Recovery and Test Preparation Supplements for students.
- **Apex Learning** – Online courses for students. Details can be found at <http://www.apexlearning.com/> . Apex specializes in delivering online learning to expand educational opportunities for students.
- **Center for Talent Development Learning Links Program** -- The Center for Talent Development's (CTD) LearningLinks Distance Learning Programs offer academically talented students the opportunity to take enrichment, high school honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses either online or via traditional correspondence. These programs are designed for independent students who wish to move quickly to advanced levels of coursework, whose local school offerings are limited, who have scheduling difficulties, or who are home-schooled. There are several online and correspondence options available. Details can be found online at www.ctd.northwestern.edu.
- **Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY)** -- EPGY out of Stanford University is a continuing project dedicated to developing and offering multimedia computer-based distance-learning courses. Combining technical and instructional expertise, EPGY provides high-ability students of all ages with an individualized educational experience, optimized in both pace and content. Through EPGY students have access to courses in a variety of subjects at levels ranging from kindergarten through advanced-undergraduate.
- **Center for Talented Youth** – CTY at Johns Hopkins University offers a variety of online options for gifted students. CTY's distance education program provides challenging academic courses all year long for eligible students in grades K through 12. More information is available at <http://www.jhu.edu/gifted/cde/index.html>.
- **Curriculum Units from the College of William and Mary** – Under the leadership of Joyce VanTassel-Baska, The Center for Gifted Education at the College of William Mary has created materials for use with gifted students. Center materials are grounded in the Integrated Curriculum Model (VanTassel-Baska, 1986, 1995, 2002), which is designed to respond to gifted learners' characteristics of precocity, intensity, and complexity through its three dimensions of advanced content, higher level processes and product development, and interdisciplinary concepts, issues, and themes. More information on the curriculum is available at <http://cfge.wm.edu/curriculum.php>.

Overview of Program Options – The Center for Talent Development has published a guide to program options for academically talented students. It is called Designs for Excellence and can be purchased by contacting CTD at 847-491-3782. The publication explains the structure and

value of programs and options such as competitions, distance learning, and summer programs. There is also contact information for programs nationwide.

Speakers and Staff Developers in Wisconsin

For information on consultants in the area check the Speakers Directory on the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY) website (www.wcaty.org) or contact the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted (WATG) at 920-991-9177.

The Best Resources for Parents & Educators

www.wcaty.org -- Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth – see *Opportunities for Educators* for more links.

www.watg.org -- Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted

www.nagc.org -- National Association for Gifted Children

<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/> -- Neag Center for Gifted Education at UConn

www.ctd.nwu.edu -- Center for Talent Development at Northwestern (Talent Search, summer programs)

www.jhu.edu/gifted -- Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins (summer programs, on-line programs, Imagine magazine)

www.hollingworth.org -- Hollingworth Center for Highly Gifted Students

www.uniquelygifted.org -- Resources for Gifted/Special Needs Students

<http://www-epgy.stanford.edu/> -- Education Program for Gifted Youth at Stanford University

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/> -- Teacher certification/gifted education courses, programs for students, Iowa Acceleration Scale (for assessing student readiness for grade acceleration)

www.collegeboard.com -- AP, SAT, college planning information

www.act.org -- ACT test information

www.tip.duke.edu -- Duke's Talent Identification Program

www.gifteddevelopment.com -- Linda Silverman's Center for gifted in Colorado

www.educationaladvancement.org -- Institute for Educational Advancement in CA. Resource database of programs and services, consultation, programs for highly gifted

<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/> -- a super, readily searchable collection of websites with stuff for grades K-12+. Lesson plans, activities, you name it—in the Humanities, Geography, the arts, math, science, and Econ.

<http://www.fpsp.org/> -- Future Problem Solving

<http://www.destinationimagination.org/> -- Destination Imagination

<http://www.mathcounts.org/> -- MATHCOUNTS

<http://www.mathforum.org> -- Variety of math resources

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov> -- US historical documents and related information

<http://www.americanpresident.org> -- American history

www.hoagiesgifted.org -- A wealth of information for educators, parents, and children. Hoagie's offers everything from research articles and curriculum to games and resource links. It is one of the best sites available in the area of gifted education.

Imagine – A journal for academically talented youth published by the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University. This is one of the best publications available for young people and their families. It was the recipient of the Parents' Choice Award in 2003. The journal is published 5 times per year. An annual subscription is \$25.00 for families and \$30.00 for institutions.

- Contact Information: phone – 800-548-1784; website – www.cty.jhu.edu/imagine

Standards and Legislative Activity

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) – NAGC is the premier association for gifted education in the nation. Through their website, information is available on program standards, best resources, programs and services, legislative activity, NAGC positions, etc. Visit their site at www.nagc.org.

You may become a member of NAGC for a cost of \$65. Full NAGC Membership entitles you to receive one or both of NAGC's publications *Gifted Child Quarterly (GCQ)* or *Parenting for High Potential (PHP)* (to receive both magazines there is an additional cost). Annual membership dues may be paid at any time of the year.