

CHARACTERISTICS COMMON TO
UNDERACHIEVING GIFTED STUDENTS
Checklist

CHARACTERISTICS		
Does the student demonstrate any of the following common characteristics and patterns of underachievement?		
	Yes	No
A very high IQ?		
Poor Work Habits		
A seeming inability to concentrate		
Lack of effort in tasks?		
An intense interest in one particular area?		
Frequently unfinished work?		
Low self-esteem?		
Emotional frustration?		
Negative attitudes toward self and peers?		
Failure to respond to motivation by usual teacher techniques?		
A skill deficit in at least one subject area?		
Inattentiveness to tasks at hand?		

BEHAVIOR PATTERNS		
Note: Gender differences may be seen in the tendency toward aggressive behavior or withdrawn behavior in students.		
	Yes	No
Stubborn refusal to comply with requests?		
Attention seeking by varied strategies?		
Disruption of others instead of work completion or on-task behavior?		
Continual rejection of assigned work with such reasons as "I already know it"?		
Absence of self-direction in decision-making?		
Continual alienation of peers because of aggressive behavior and/or negative attitudes?		
Lack of communication with peers or teachers		
Tendency to live in a fantasy world or appears out of touch with reality?		
Prefers to work alone rather than in a group?		
Little in class work?		
Little attempt to justify behavior that seems withdrawn or disconnected?		

Additional
CHARACTERISTICS OF INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED STUDENTS

ACHIEVEMENT	Yes	No
Has a large vocabulary.		
Has many interests or hobbies		
LEARNING		
Asks penetrating and probing questions		
Comprehends new ideas very quickly.		
Has a quick mastery and recall for factual information.		
Can grasp underlying principles and make generalizations		
Engages in lively and stimulating conversations but has difficulty in writing ideas.		
PERSONALITY AND MOTIVATION		
Is curious and investigative		
Is easily bored or inattentive.		
Likes to work independently.		
Is often self-assertive, stubborn in own beliefs.		
Displays high energy level, alert, eager.		
Creativity		
Prefers complex or unconventional ideas.		
Sees familiar things or situations in an unusual way.		
Produces original products or ideas.		
Displays a sense of humor.		
Social and leadership qualities		
Makes judgments about right and wrong.		
Is a non-conformist.		
Seeks the company of older children or adults.		
Displays a high degree of verbal fluency among peers, uses colorful expressions, and often gives direction to a group.		
Additional Factors to consider		
Comes from a background that is culturally or linguistically diverse (or different from the majority of students)		
Comes from a low socio-economic background.		