

Minority Gifted Children

Characteristics of Minority Gifted Children

- Language or cultural background often different from middle-class native English speakers
- Sometimes choose between need for achievement & affiliation
- African Americans are verbal, vocal, physically active, creative, communal, prefer cooperation to competition, adept at reading the behavior of others, sensitive & emotional
- Students who feel discriminated against may put forth less effort
- Have gifted talents that are valued within own cultures
- Lower standardized test scores

Potential Challenges in School

- Most procedures in the GT program have been developed for middle-class native speakers
- Students fall to negative social pressures, so their need for affiliation outweighs the need for achievement
- Black students tend to be more field-dependent, visual & concrete. Schools teach more often in verbal, abstract, & in decontextualized ways
- Lack of interest in school due to lack of multicultural education in the curriculum
- Teachers may have lower expectations for minority students

Suggested Interventions, If Needed:

- Select tests that can reduce cultural & linguistic bias, expand use of nonverbal tests
- Provide multiple assessment measures to give students several opportunities to demonstrate skill & potential, don't use standardized tests as a primary measure of giftedness
- School should have their own screening process relevant & in correlation with its students' needs & population, increase use of culturally responsive instruction
- Assessment of LEP in their native language-as an alternative to English language standardized tests. This test should measure creative thinking skills such as fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration, language proficiency, & non-verbal perceptual skill of cognitive development
- Workshops to teach school personnel to create awareness of Minority Gifted Children

Further Reading:

Handbook of Gifted Education by N. Colangelo & Davis, Chapt. 39\ *Meeting the Needs of Gifted and Talented Minority Language Students*
<http://eric.hoagiesgifted.org>, NAGC-ED *Meeting the Needs of Gifted and Talented*