

Teacher Checklist: Supporting Gifted and Talented Learners

Differentiated Instruction

- ■ Use flexible grouping so GT students work with both peers of similar ability and mixed-ability groups.
- ■ Provide tiered assignments that adjust depth/complexity rather than giving 'more of the same.'
- ■ Offer choice boards/learning menus so students can pursue interests while meeting objectives.

Recognizing Giftedness Beyond Test Scores

- ■ Use multiple measures: portfolios, performance-based tasks, creativity assessments, and observations.
- ■ Look for nontraditional strengths (e.g., leadership, problem-solving, artistic or creative expression).
- ■ Apply culturally responsive identification tools that reflect diverse backgrounds and talents.

Preventing Underachievement & Boosting Engagement

- ■ Pre-assess and use curriculum compacting to let students 'test out' of mastered content.
- ■ Provide enrichment projects (independent studies, passion projects, inquiry-based learning).
- ■ Teach goal-setting and self-monitoring skills to help GT students manage challenges.

Supporting Social-Emotional Needs

- ■ Create a classroom culture that values curiosity, creativity, and diverse ways of thinking.
- ■ Model and encourage a growth mindset (praise effort and persistence, not just results).
- ■ Connect GT students with peer groups, clubs, or mentors who share their interests.

Ensuring Equity & Access

- ■ Use universal screening instead of relying only on teacher referrals.
- ■ Partner with families to gather cultural and linguistic insights about student strengths.
- ■ Provide scaffolds (sentence stems, bilingual resources, visuals) so CLED learners can demonstrate ability.

Professional Growth & Collaboration

- ■ Seek ongoing PD on GT education and equity practices.
- ■ Review case studies or student profiles that show giftedness in diverse forms.
- ■ Collaborate with GT specialists, ESL teachers, and school psychologists to design inclusive enrichment.