

## Understanding Students Who Are Gifted and Talented

### Defining Giftedness

- Currently, 34 states have laws requiring schools to provide gifted and talented education; only 6 states have full funding/ Most states define giftedness based on the Javits Gifted and Talented Act
- IDEA does not require states to provide services
- More girls than boys
- Under representation of students from diverse backgrounds

### Describing the Characteristics

- High general intellect/ prodigy
- Creativity/ Leadership ability
- Talents in visual and performing arts
- Social and emotional characteristics
- Origin: Interaction between nature/nurture

### Evaluating Students

- Challenges identifying students from diverse backgrounds
- Use multiple means of measurement
  - Multiple Intelligences
  - Creativity assessments/ Torrance Test of Creative Thinking

### Interventions

- Differentiated instruction
- Partnerships/Mentoring
- Acceleration
  - Student moves more rapidly through the curriculum/May include “skipping” classes or grades
- Compact the Curriculum (curriculum compacting)
  - Assess parts of the curriculum already mastered/Teacher only teaches curriculum not already mastered/May start by doing most difficult task first
- Curriculum extension (enrichment)
  - Expand the breadth and depth
- Cognitive taxonomies (Bloom)
  - Move students up to more complex tasks
  - Problem based learning
- Autonomous learning model
  - Teach organizational skills/ Engage in self-directed study about topics of interest/ Teach the importance of autonomous life-long learning
- Schoolwide enrichment model
  - Adding instruction on disciplines or complex material to present content/ Using more challenging or complex material to present content/ Using an expanded range of instructional strategies/ Teaching critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Webquests /Online instruction
- Promoting Creativity and Critical-Thinking Skills
  - Fostering creative attributes/ Teaching critical thinking and creative thinking skills/ Engaging students in creative activities

### Service Options

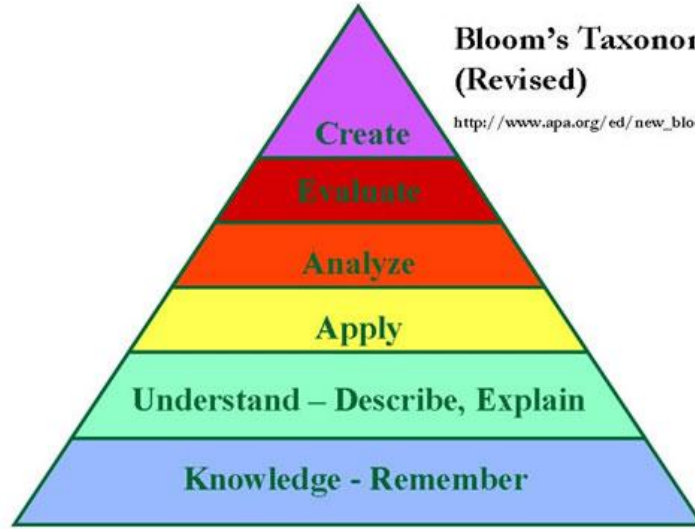
- Cluster grouping (AP and Honors Classes)
- All-school enrichment programs
- Accelerative method
- Magnet schools, charter schools, self-contained classes, special day schools, residential schools, early college programs

### Making Accommodations for Assessments

- Usually do not need accommodation unless they also have a disability
- May feel added pressure to perform well
- SAT and ACT may feel extreme pressure, especially if competing for scholarships
- Test taking techniques to help lower test anxiety

**Bloom's Taxonomy  
(Revised)**

[http://www.apa.org/ed/new\\_blooms.html](http://www.apa.org/ed/new_blooms.html)



Based on an APA adaptation of Anderson, L.W. & Krathwohl, D.R. (Eds.) (2001)