

Leader's Guide

Characteristics of Gifted Children

OAGC HQPD Topics:

- *Characteristics of Gifted Learners*

ODE Competencies:

- *(d) The ability to understand the social and emotional needs of students who are gifted and to address the impact of those needs on student learning*
- *(e) The ability to recognize and respond to characteristics and needs of students from traditionally underrepresented populations who are gifted and create safe and culturally responsive learning environments*



**High Quality Professional Development
For Classroom Teachers**

By Responsive Learning



OPTIONS FOR USING THIS TRAINING:

BLENDED LEARNING (BOTH ONLINE AND FACE TO FACE)

With this option, teachers will view the online learning module, on their own time, prior to a faculty or PLC meeting, where an administrator or other instructional leader will guide the teachers through meaningful discussions and activities regarding *Characteristics of Gifted Learners*.

We suggest the following process for implementation:

- 1) One week prior to the meeting, teachers are directed to login to their account and view the online module and any related video(s). They may also choose to use the additional resources.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, the administrator/instructional leaders will prepare for the meeting by reviewing the online module, additional resources, and this Leader's Guide.

ONLINE ONLY

Sometimes there just isn't enough time in the day to get everything done. An administrator may choose to use this as a standalone online training. Teachers will complete the course, the conference video, and additional resources on their own time.

With the online option, this Leader's Guide will not be used.

Whichever option is used, the campus administrator can track progress and completion of the online modules and conference videos.



One week prior to the Face-to-Face training

LOG IN TO YOUR ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNT

You should have received an email with your login credentials for the Campus Administrator Account, where you will access all of the resources for this training. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the training by previewing the online learning modules, and any related video(s).

In addition, look through this Leader's Guide to determine which discussion questions and activities you will use during the meeting.

ENROLLING TEACHERS IN THE GT IGNITE ONLINE SYSTEM

You should have received an email with instructions for how to register your teachers with the GT Ignite online system. Each teacher needs to create an account in the GT Ignite System.

Here's why:

- 1) During the online training, your teachers will complete Reflective Questions.
- 2) As the administrator, you will have access to all of your teachers' responses to the Reflective Questions, giving you more insight into their unique needs for additional support.
- 3) With this account, your teachers can review any of the training modules throughout the school year.

For your convenience, the email you received also included an email template for you to copy, paste into an email, to send to your teachers. The email has the registration code and instructions. All you have to do is send it.

To respect your teachers' time, it is important to send this email to your teacher at least 4 days prior to the faculty/PLC meeting, so they can complete the online module and be ready to participate in the discussion and activities.

If you need this email to be resent to you, simply submit a request to support@responsivelearning.com



One day prior to the Face-to-Face training

PRINT HANDOUTS

During the training, every teacher will need a hardcopy of the hand-outs. It is imperative that each teacher has a copy of the following documents:

- 1) Copy of the OAGC HQPD with alignment to NAGC standards and ODE competencies. (Included at end of this document)
- 2) Handouts from the video *Characteristics of Gifted Learners*

SEND FINAL EMAIL TO TEACHERS

We recommend sending your teachers a reminder to complete the online learning module and the conference video prior to arriving at the meeting, tomorrow. Teachers need to come ready to discuss. This will make the training run more smoothly.

DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF TRAINING FORMAT

As the leader of this training, you have choices. The following suggested activities can be provided as a 45 minute group session (faculty meeting, PLC) or it can be tiered into three 15 minute separate activities. Additionally, the following suggested activities could serve as an outline for a 3 hour to full day professional development.



Characteristics of Gifted Learners

Discussion and Activities

Recommended Script:

Welcome everyone. Having gifted learners in a mixed-ability, regular classroom environment can be a challenge. Often, even the best and most experienced teachers have never had training specific to meeting the unique learning needs of this population. So, this meeting is just another way we are continuing our professional development and growing together as educators of all children.

Today, we are going to discuss the unique characteristics of gifted learners that impact their performance at home and school. Specifically, we will address the OAGC recommended professional development topic of: Characteristics of Gifted Learners as well as the ODE gifted professional development competencies: d and e.

We all know that any given class of students will not be filled with students who are all at the same place academically or developmentally. We often talk about some of the traits of specific disabilities or language proficiency that may need accommodation in the classroom. Well, students who are gifted have learning needs that are different from typical classmates because they develop differently than expected. In the video, we learned what some of those traits are, how they may impact a student's engagement in the classroom and outside of school, and how other outside factors may impact the likelihood a gifted child will develop his or her talents. Our goal is to understand those traits so we can make the necessary instructional and environmental adjustments in our classrooms to make them better suited for gifted learners.

Before we begin, let me give you an overview of what we will do during this meeting.

- 1. By now, everyone should have completed the online learning module. The first thing we will do is to take a few minutes to discuss and share what we learned.*
- 2. Next, we will work in groups to relate this learning to the OAGC standards and ODE competencies and apply it to classroom instruction.*
- 3. Finally, you will have time to synthesize what you have learned into a general understanding of the nature and needs of gifted learners.*

Ok, so let's get started.

ONLINE MODULE REVIEW (15 MINUTES)

Objective: Participants will review key aspects of a gifted learner's development and display of ability and communicate their understanding through words and pictures.

Materials: Chart paper, markers, post-it notes

Preparation: Develop method for breaking large group into small groups of 4. Gather materials.

Activity:

1. Divide the group into smaller groups of 3-4 people.
2. In your group, review some of the key points in the video, including, but not limited to, asynchronous development, overexcitabilities, influence of outside factors on evidence of giftedness, impact of giftedness on relationships, perfectionism, and underachievement. What does each mean? How do different factors converge to create challenging or positive experiences for the learner and those around him or her?
3. Imagine you are tasked with marketing a **new** movie about giftedness or a gifted character. Decide what the title and theme might be based on your understanding of the characteristics of gifted learners.
4. Create a movie poster that includes the title, a visual image to represent the movie, and a catch phrase or slogan to engage a potential audience.
5. Hang the movie posters around the room. Have others take post-it notes and walk around to review the posters. Viewers should add post-it notes with ideas for potential plot lines, friend archetypes, or situations that might occur in the movie based on the theme presented.

ONLINE MODULE APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

Objective: Participants will analyse a former student known to be gifted and recognize specific traits that are evidence of giftedness and will write a summative profile of that student.

Materials: *Characteristics of Gifted Students with Other Factors* handout

Preparation: Download the handout from the course resources and make copies.

Activity:

1. Think about a student you currently have in class or you have had in recent years who is identified as gifted in one or more areas.
2. Reflect on the *Characteristics of Gifted Students with Other Factors* handout along with information learned about asynchrony, overexcitabilities, motivation, and peer relationships.
3. Write a 1-2 paragraph summative profile analysing the student in the context of those traits and factors. What characteristics does the student display? What characteristics would you expect the student to display but they don't? What factors may be the reason for that? Is there evidence of asynchrony or overexcitabilities, and if so,

what? How might the student's giftedness be impacting relationships? What is classroom performance like? If an underachiever, what type of underachiever?

4. After completing your profile, partner with a colleague and share the story of your student. What do the students have in common? In what ways are they different?

ONLINE MODULE INTEGRATION (15 MINUTES)

Objective: The participant will create an action plan with interventions or supports for a gifted learner based on a previously-created student profile.

Materials: None needed

Preparation: Remind participants to have the profiles they previously wrote in the application task.

Activity:

1. Review the student profile you created in the application task.
2. Based on the ideas shared during the video and experiences shared by colleagues in this group, develop a support plan with a list of strategies to address any concerns that arose in the profile.
3. Add additional strategies to your list that will support the student's strengths or will utilize positive characteristics to overcome obstacles.
4. Find a critical friend, swap profiles and reinforce at least two ideas that align with what was learned in this module and provide at least one new recommendation to support the student in some way.
5. (If time permits, repeat the critical friend discussion with a different person to generate additional ideas.)

Professional Development Plan for General Education Teachers Providing Gifted Services in the Regular Classroom

Learning Outcomes (based on 2013 Gifted and Talented Teacher Preparation Standards)

The general education teacher will:

- know and understand issues in gifted education.
- create learning environments that promote growth and development of gifted learners.
- apply learning strategies to meet gifted student's needs and interests as well as promote gifted students' learning.
- construct and use varied assessments to inform instruction and evaluate progress.
- communicate with students and families to support student learning.
- view professional development in gifted education as a career-long effort and responsibility.

ODE General Educator of Gifted Competencies (based on 2016 Gifted Operating Standards)

The general education teacher will demonstrate:

- (a) The ability to differentiate instruction based on a student's readiness, knowledge and skill level, including using accelerated content, complexity, depth challenge, creativity and abstractness;
- (b) The ability to select, adapt, or create a variety of differentiated curricula that incorporate advanced, conceptually challenging, in-depth, distinctive and complex content;
- (c) The ability to provide an extension or replacement of the general education curricula, to modify the learning process through strategies such as curriculum compacting, and to select alternative assignments and projects based on individual student needs;
- (d) The ability to understand the social and emotional needs of students who are gifted and to address the impact of those needs on student learning;
- (e) The ability to recognize and respond to characteristics and needs of students from traditionally underrepresented populations who are gifted and create safe and culturally responsive learning environments;
- (f) The ability to use data from a variety of sources to measure and monitor the growth of students who are gifted;
- (g) The ability to select, use, and interpret technically sound formal and informal assessments for the purpose of academic decision making; and
- (h) The ability to participate in the development of the Written Education Plan.

Year One 30 hours of professional development

General education teachers would participate the year before gifted students would be counted as served in the regular classroom with ongoing support from a licensed gifted intervention specialist or coordinator with gifted licensure.

| OAGC Content | NAGC /CEC Teacher Preparation Standards in Gifted and Talented Education (2013) | PD Hours |
|--|--|-----------------|
| <i>Identification of Gifted Students</i> ODE Competencies: e, g | 4.1 Beginning gifted education professionals understand that some groups of individuals with gifted and talents have been underrepresented in gifted education programs and select and use technically sound formal and informal assessments that minimize bias in identifying students for gifted educational programs and services. 4.2 Beginning gifted education professionals use knowledge of measurement principles and practices to differentiate assessments and interpret results to guide educational decisions for individuals with gifted and talents. 4.3 Beginning gifted education professionals collaborate with colleagues and families in using multiple types of assessment information and learning process decisions and to minimize bias in assessments and decision-making. | 1.5 hours |

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| <p><i>Characteristics of Gifted Students</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: d, e</p> | <p>1.1 Beginning gifted education professionals understand how language, culture, economic status, family background, and/or area of disability can influence the learning of individuals with gifts and talents.</p> <p>1.2 Beginning gifted education professionals use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with gifts and talents.</p> <p>2.1 Beginning gifted educational professionals create safe, inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments that engage individuals with gifts and talents in meaningful and rigorous learning activities and social interactions.</p> <p>5.5 Beginning gifted education professionals use instructional strategies that enhance the affective development of individuals with gifts and talents.</p> | <p>3.5 hours</p> |
| <p><i>Higher Level Thinking And Complexity</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: a, b</p> | <p>3.1 Beginning gifted education professionals understand the role of central concepts, structures of the discipline, and tools of inquiry of the content areas they teach, and use their understanding to organize knowledge, integrate cross-disciplinary skills, and develop meaningful learning progressions within and across grade levels.</p> <p>5.1 Beginning gifted education professionals know principles of evidence-based, differentiated, and accelerated practices and possess a repertoire of instructional strategies to enhance the critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and performance skills of individuals with gifts and talents.</p> <p>5.2 Beginning gifted education professionals apply appropriate technologies to support instructional assessment, planning, and delivery for individuals with gifts and talents.</p> | <p>10 hours</p> |
| <p><i>Lesson Design for Diverse Learners: Application of complexity to curriculum</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: b, c, f, g</p> | <p>2.2 Beginning gifted education professionals use communications and motivational and instructional strategies to facilitate understanding of subject matter and to teach individuals with gifts and talents how to adapt to different environments and develop ethical leadership skills.</p> <p>3.3 Beginning gifted education professionals use assessments to select, adapt, and create materials to differentiate instructional strategies and general and specialized curricula to challenge individuals with gifts and talents.</p> <p>3.4 Beginning gifted education professionals understand that individuals with gifts and talents demonstrate a wide range of advanced knowledge and performance levels and modify the general or specialized curriculum appropriately.</p> | <p>15 hours</p> |

Year Two 30 hours of professional development

General education teachers would participate the year gifted students are first counted as served in the regular classroom with ongoing support from a licensed gifted intervention specialist or coordinator with gifted licensure.

| OAGC Content | NAGC /CEC Teacher Preparation Standards in Gifted and Talented Education (2013) | PD Hours |
|---|--|----------|
| <p><i>Differentiation in the Regular Classroom</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: a, b, c, f, g</p> | <p>2.2 Beginning gifted education professionals use communications and motivational and instructional strategies to facilitate understanding of subject matter and to teach individuals with gifts and talents how to adapt to different environments and develop ethical leadership skills.</p> <p>2.3 Beginning gifted education professionals adjust their communication to an individual's language proficiency and cultural and linguistic differences.</p> <p>3.1 Beginning gifted education professionals understand the role of central concepts, structures of the discipline, and tools of inquiry of the content areas they teach, and use their understanding to organize knowledge, integrate cross-disciplinary skills, and develop meaningful learning progressions within and across grade levels.</p> <p>3.2 Beginning gifted education professionals design appropriate learning and performance modifications for individuals with gifts and talents that enhance creativity, acceleration, depth and complexity in academic subject matter and specialized domains.</p> <p>3.3 Beginning gifted education professionals use assessments to select, adapt, and create materials to differentiate instructional strategies and general and specialized curricula to challenge individuals with gifts and talents.</p> <p>3.4 Beginning gifted education professionals understand that individuals with gifts and talents demonstrate a wide range of advanced knowledge and performance levels and modify the general or specialized curriculum appropriately.</p> <p>5.2 Beginning gifted education professionals apply appropriate technologies to support instructional assessment, planning, and delivery for individuals with gifts and talents.</p> | 15 hours |

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| <p><i>Development of Written Educational Plans</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: f, g, h</p> | <p>4.3 Beginning gifted education professionals collaborate with colleagues and families in using multiple types of assessment information to make identification and learning progress decisions and to minimize bias in assessment and decision-making.</p> <p>4.4 Beginning gifted education professionals use assessment results to develop long and short-range goals and objectives that take into consideration an individual's abilities and needs, the learning environments, and other factors related to diversity.</p> <p>4.5 Beginning gifted education professionals engage individuals with gifts and talents in assessing the quality of their own learning and performance and in setting future goals and objectives.</p> <p>5.3 Beginning gifted education professionals collaborate with families, professional colleagues, and other educators to select, adapt, and use evidence-based strategies that promote challenging learning opportunities in general and specialized curricula.</p> | 5 hours |
| <p><i>Acceleration</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: a, f, g</p> | <p>2.4 Beginning gifted education professionals demonstrate understanding of the multiple environments that are part of a continuum, of services for individuals with gifts and talents, including the advantages and disadvantages of various settings and teach students to adapt to these environments.</p> <p>5.1 Beginning gifted education professionals know principles of evidence-based, differentiated, and accelerated practices and possess a repertoire of instructional strategies to enhance the critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and performance skills of individuals with gifts and talents.</p> | 10 hours: distribution based on need of professional learning community |
| <p><i>In-depth or Independent Study</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: a, b, c</p> | <p>2.4 Beginning gifted education professionals demonstrate understanding of the multiple environments that are part of a continuum, of services for individuals with gifts and talents, including the advantages and disadvantages of various settings and teach students to adapt to these environments.</p> <p>5.4 Beginning gifted education professionals emphasize the development, practice, and transfer of advanced knowledge and skills across environments throughout the lifespan leading to creative, productive careers in a multicultural society for individuals with gifts and talents.</p> | |
| <p><i>Mentorships</i></p> <p>ODE Competencies: c, e</p> | <p>2.4 Beginning gifted education professionals demonstrate understanding of the multiple environments that are part of a continuum, of services for individuals with gifts and talents, including the advantages and disadvantages of various settings and teach students to adapt to these environments.</p> | |

Year Three and Beyond 10 hours per year

To remain current in gifted education and allow students in a teacher's classroom to be counted as served, general education teachers must have ongoing professional development in gifted education and the continued support of a licensed gifted intervention specialist or coordinator with gifted licensure.

| OAGC Content | NAGC /CEC Teacher Preparation Standards in Gifted and Talented Education (2013) | Hours of PD |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Professional Growth</i> | <p>6.1 Beginning gifted education professionals use professional ethical principles and specialized program standards to guide their practice</p> <p>6.4 Beginning gifted education professionals are aware of their own professional learning needs, understand the significance of lifelong learning, and participate in professional activities and learning communities.</p> <p>6.5 Beginning gifted education professionals advance the profession by engaging in activities such as advocacy and mentoring.</p> <p>7.1 Beginning gifted education professionals apply elements of effective collaboration.</p> <p>7.2 Beginning gifted education professionals serve as a collaborative resource to colleagues</p> <p>7.3 Beginning gifted education professionals use collaboration to promote the well-being of individuals with gifts and talents across a wide range of settings, experiences, and collaborators.</p> | Professional development hours must be specific to gifted education. |