



# GIFTED EDUCATION

Office of Indian Education  
Indigenous Stakeholders

**CULTIVATING GENIUS**

# Gifted Education

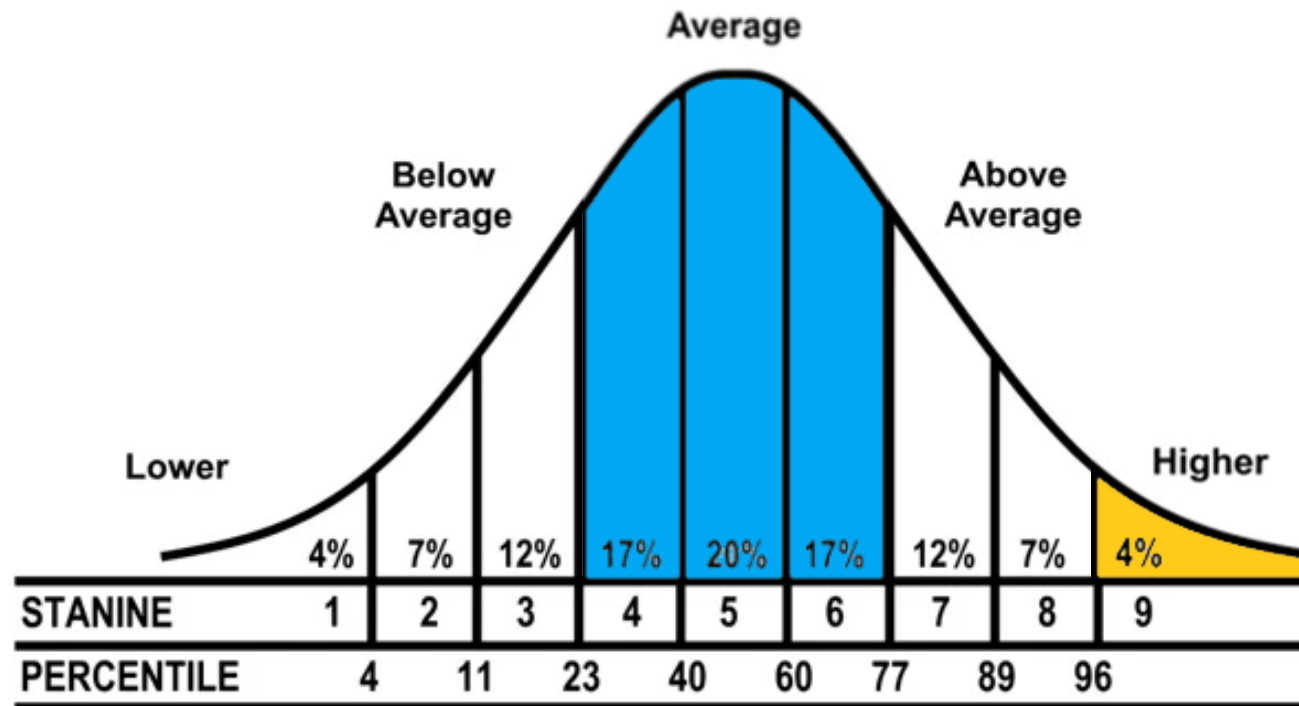
- What is Gifted Education in Arizona?
- Identification & Services for Gifted Students
- How Can I Support Gifted Students?

# Gifted Learners

Unmotivated **Sensitivity** **Inquisitive**  
Large Vocabulary **Inventive** **Bossy**  
Problem-Solving **Critical Thinking** **Class Clown**  
**Creative** High Energy **Impractical**  
**Systemize** **Fairness**  
**Inpatient** **Disorganized**  
**Bored with School**

# Gifted Education in Arizona

- Why is Gifted Education Important?



# Types of Gifted Learners

## Must Serve

### Arizona's Scale

Verbal	97+
Quantitative	97+
Non-Verbal	97+

## Can Serve

### Expanded Definition

Local Norms	90+
Creativity, Leadership, etc.	
Pre-Kindergarten	



# Gifted Services

What can this look like in school?

# What Should My School Be Providing?

## Programs



## Services



# Districts & Teachers

## Advancing Teaching





# Family & Community Support

In the classroom:



# Districts & Teachers

## Interdisciplinary Studies

Methodology Card 2

**Strategy Definition & Description:**

Interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary learning and teaching concepts with a difference.

Multi-disciplinary learning looks at the same topic from the lens of multiple disciplines. It highlights the diverse perspectives these subjects bring to the table, enriching the overall understanding.

Interdisciplinary learning goes a step further. It actively connects concepts and ideas from different subjects to understand a central theme or solve a complex problem. It's about creating a new understanding through the merging of knowledge.

**Here's how both approaches promote deep and permanent learning:**

**Breaking Down Silos:** Traditional education often presents subjects in isolation. Interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary learning break down these silos, forcing students to see the interconnectedness of knowledge. This fosters a more holistic view of the world.

**Deeper Understanding:** By looking at a topic through multiple lenses, students gain a richer, more nuanced understanding. They can see how concepts from different subjects can be used together to explain complex phenomena.

**Active Problem-solving:** These approaches move away from rote memorization and encourage students to actively apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems. This strengthens critical thinking skills and makes learning more relevant and engaging.

**Transfer of Knowledge:** Students learn to transfer knowledge and skills from one subject to another. This fosters long-term retention and the ability to apply learnings in new contexts, leading to deeper and more permanent understanding.

**Why is it important for gifted and talented students?**

Gifted learners crave complex challenges found in interdisciplinary lessons; merging knowledge from various subjects, forcing them creative thinking and making connections across disciplines. This deepens understanding and fosters a more holistic view of the world, keeping gifted learners highly engaged in the learning process.

**How do I get started?**

Imagine studying climate change. A traditional approach might cover it in science class. An interdisciplinary approach could involve incorporating concepts from history (looking at past climate shifts), economics (considering the impact on different countries), and even literature (analyzing how climate change is portrayed in fiction). This creates a more comprehensive understanding of the issue and its complexities. **Here are 5 ways a teacher could try embedding content areas together:**

- Themed Units:** Plan a unit around a central theme and weave in connections from various subjects. For example, a unit on ancient Egypt could incorporate history lessons, but also delve into hieroglyphics (language arts), pyramids construction (math/engineering), and artistic styles (art).
- Literature Springboards:** Use a captivating book as a launchpad for interdisciplinary exploration. A novel like "To Kill a Mockingbird" could spark discussions on social justice (history), character analysis (psychology), and even debates on legal systems (law).
- Real-World Problem Solving:** Present real-world challenges and have students tackle them using knowledge from different subjects. Designing a sustainable city could involve science (renewable energy), math (urban planning), and even social studies (considering community needs).
- Creative Projects:** Assign projects that require students to integrate knowledge from various disciplines. Building a model volcano could involve science (eruption mechanics), art (creating a realistic model), and even a dash of history (learning about famous volcanoes).
- Guest Speakers:** Invite professionals from different fields to speak about their work. An engineer could discuss bridge design, linking math and physics concepts to the real world. This allows students to see the interconnectedness of knowledge in action.

**Guiding Questions**

How can you weave concepts from at least two different subjects into your planned unit? How will this interdisciplinary approach help students gain a richer understanding of the topic? What opportunities will students have to actively apply knowledge from different subjects within the lesson? Is there a way the unit could provide theme practice by integrating arts, science, or history?

**Resources Section Links**

Integrate Arts and STEM for Gifted Learners [Example Activity Integration of History, Art, Geography](#)

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## Tiered Lessons

Instructional Strategy 10

**Strategy Definition & Description:**

Tomlinson (1998) described tiered lessons as "The most and best use of differentiated instruction." A tiered lesson is a differentiation strategy that addresses a particular standard, key concept, and generalization, but allows several pathways for students to arrive at an understanding of these components based on their interests, readiness, or learning profile. A lesson tiered by readiness level implies that the teacher has a good understanding of the students' ability levels with respect to the lesson and has designed the tiers to meet those needs. Think of a wedding cake with tiers of varying sizes. Many examples of lessons tiered by readiness have three tiers: below grade level, at grade level, and above grade level. There is no rule that states there may only be three tiers. The number of tiers you use will depend on the range of ability levels in your own classroom since you are forming tiers based on your assessment of your students' abilities to handle the material particular to this lesson. Students are regrouped the next time you use learning as a strategy. The use of flexible, rather than static, groups is essential. Adams, C., & Pierce, R. (2004). Tiered Lessons: One Way to Differentiate Mathematics Instruction. *Gifted Today*, 27(2), 80-88.

**Why is it important for gifted and talented students?**

The use of tiered instruction and student choice allows learners to work within their zone of proximal development, which means they are working at a level that suits them. At its core, tiered instruction combines assessment and instruction.

Tiered instruction aligns complexity to the readiness levels and learning needs of students. The teacher offers different kinds and degrees of instructional support and structure, depending upon each student's level. Tiered instruction allows all students to focus on essential concepts and skills yet still be challenged at the different levels on which they are individually capable of working (in). \* Kingore (2006). Tiering instruction allows the teacher to differentiate for all levels of students in their classroom.

**Examples of tiered instruction:**

- Tier 1: Tasks for learners with advanced readiness and skills for the curriculum level.
- Tier 2: Tasks for learners with readiness and skills for the curriculum level.
- Tier 3: Tasks for learners with less readiness and skills for the curriculum level.

**How do I get started?**

**step 1:** Select a unit of study based on the Arizona state standards.

**step 2:** Determine the topics, concepts and guiding question for your unit. What do you want all students to know?

**step 3:** Assess all students for readiness and enduring understanding of topics and concepts that you will teach. The results of this assessment will help you to adjust the levels of learning that will be included in your tiered activity.

**step 4:** Determine the skills students will need to successfully understand and use this information.

**What do you want all students to understand? (Understanding is the enduring knowledge. It is the ability to use it.)**

**step 5:** Create a unit or ongoing lesson that is:

- integrated
- High Level
- Choses students to use key concepts, ideas, critical thinking

**step 6:** Use the **equation to chart the complexity of the activity.** This will help to ensure successful learning for all students.

**step 7:** Match task to student based interests, learning profile and readiness.

**step 8:** Provide for student success by coaching, facilitating and presenting lessons.

**step 9:** Determine two to four ways that students can demonstrate their successful learning.

**step 10:** What do you want your students to do to demonstrate their learning?

**step 11:** Match tasks to student based interests, learning profile and readiness.

**step 12:** Provide for student success by coaching, facilitating and presenting lessons.

**Guiding Questions**

In what part of the lesson could you tier (content, process, or product)? How may you determine the tiers (readiness, interest, or learning profile) and how many tiers are you thinking you want to create? How may you ensure that each tier is challenging, equally exciting, and developmentally appropriate for your students?

**Resources Section Links**

[Discussion: Tiers and Differentiated Instruction](#) [Lesson: Tiers for Gifted Learners](#) [Tiered Assignments Examples](#)

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## Good morning!

It's 8:41 on Tuesday, December 17

Welcome to ADEL!

ADEL is the Arizona Digital Educators Library, a digital ecosystem that provides curated, standards-aligned resources to support educators and raise academic outcomes.

Teacher Tools Instruction & Methodology (2 resources)

Gifted Students Resource Section (109 resources)

Home

Gifted and Talented

Arizona Department of Education

# Resources



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Resources**



# Thank You

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