

## **Myths & Realities About Gifted Students**

Myth #1: *GT Programs are elitist* – Gifted students are elite in the same way that champion athletes, musical soloists, award-winning authors, or great leaders are elite: they possess talents and skills that enable them to excel and advance in certain realms of endeavor.

Each child—including gifted students—should have the opportunity to learn and excel at the level and in the style that best suits that child's needs.

Myth#2: *Gifted children can get what they need in school by virtue of their superior abilities* – In reality, gifted students often struggle in a regular classroom setting. The lack of challenge or lack of attention to a unique learning style may impede, rather than enhance, learning and growth.

Myth #3: *Labeling a child as “gifted” often leads to special treatment and special problems* – Identifying gifted students instead results in an academic program that more clearly meets their individual needs, often eliminating academic or behavioral problems.

Myth #4: *Accelerating gifted students causes social or emotional problems* – Research has shown that acceleration (either in content or grade level) does not create social or emotional problems for the correctly-identified gifted student.