Profiles of the Gifted and Talented

Based on observations, interviews, and review of literature by George Betts and Maureen Neihart
Betts and Niehart propose 6 types of gifted learners.

- TYPE I SUCCESSFUL
- TYPE II CREATIVE
- TYPE III UNDERGROUND
- TYPE IV AT RISK
- TYPE V TWICE EXCEPTIONAL
- TYPE VI AUTONOMOUS LEARNER
• As many as 90% of the identified gifted students

• Discovers what “sells” at home & school

• Convergent thinker

• Learns & tests well

• Eager for approval

• Liked by peers

• Positive self-concept

• Unaware of deficiencies

Type I SUCCESSFUL
• Divergently gifted

• Question authority

• Don’t conform - haven’t learned to use the system

• Receive little recognition for accomplishments

• Struggle with self-esteem

• At risk as eventual drop out

• Often go unidentified

Type II CREATIVE
• Middle school females hiding giftedness

• High School boys dealing with athletic or social pressures

• Minorities who are successful in school

• Want to be included in non-gifted peer group

• May be radical transformation from earlier grades

• Their needs are often in conflict with expectations of teachers & parents

Type III UNDERGROUND
• Angry with adults & with themselves; Defensive

• System has not met needs for many years; Burn-out or Spaced-out

• Depressed & withdrawn or acts out

• Interests are outside realm of regular school curriculum

• Poor self-concept

• Can be from culturally diverse backgrounds and/or poverty

Type IV AT RISK
• Physically or emotionally challenged
• Learning disabilities
• Limited English Proficiency
• Typically not identified gifted
• Programs don’t integrate their varying needs
• Discouraged, frustrated, rejected, helpless, powerless or isolated
• School system tends to focus on the weaknesses

**Type VI  TWICE EXCEPTIONAL**
• Self-motivated; curious; internal locus of control
• Work effectively in school system
• Use the school system to create new opportunities
• Strong, positive self-esteem & resilience
• Positive attention & support for accomplishments
• Respected by adults & peers
• Leadership roles
• Independent, self-directed

Type VI AUTONOMOUS LEARNER