

# Profiles of the Gifted and Talented

Based on observations, interviews, and review of literature by George Betts and Maureen Neihart



TYPE I  
SUCCESSFUL

TYPE II  
CREATIVE

TYPE III  
UNDERGROUND

TYPE IV  
AT RISK

TYPE V  
TWICE EXCEPTIONAL

TYPE VI  
AUTONOMOUS LEARNER



*Betts and Niehart propose 6 types of gifted learners.*

- 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- Depressed & withdrawn or acts out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**