

Closing the 'Achievement Gap' using Gifted Education Strategies

Master Class: Ask the Experts
hosted by LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs
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Genius Child

This is a song for the genius child
Sing it softly for the song is wild
Sing it softly as ever you can-
Lest the song get out of hand
Nobody loves a genius child
Can you love an eagle, tame or wild?
Wild or tame,
Can you love a monster of frightening name?
Nobody loves a genius child.
Kill him and let his soul run wild.
-Langston Hughes, 1947

Overview

- A review of the data and summary of recent ‘Excellent Gap’ report
- Strategies from the field of gifted education will be matched with evidence based practices demonstrated to provide sustainable results with populations who suffer from these gaps most frequently, gifted and high ability students of color.
- Case studies of gifted children of color will be used to discuss and make recommendations for effective strategies.

Gifted Education National Data

source: <http://ocrdata.ed.gov>, 2012

Ethnicity/Race	% in General Population (of districts having gifted programs)	% in Gifted Population
Asian/Pacific Islander	5%	10%
Hispanic	25%	16%
African American/ Black	19%	10%
Anglo American/ White (non- Hispanic)	49%	62%

The EXCELLENCE GAP

source: Plucker, Hardesty, & Burroughs, 2014

- *Persisting gaps in performance between students from traditional majority culture and those from cultural diverse groups of same ability levels*
- *Those who are persistently underperforming are African American, Latino, low income students across groups*
- *Urban area and rural area are also among the underachieving high ability groups*

Lack of Access & Opportunities create the gap

When high ability students have equitable access to high end curriculum and programs, their performance increases and they EXCEL!!

**What does it take to
improve achievement
for high ability
learners from diverse
backgrounds?**

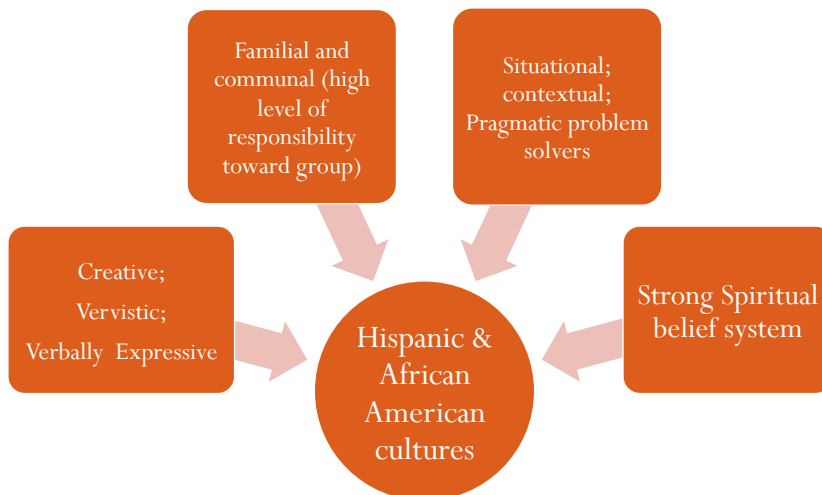
'Closing the Gap' Strategies

- Access to high end learning
- Equitable identification process
- Improved parent/family engagement
- Mentors from similar backgrounds & genders
- Sustained engagement in enriched, accelerated learning opportunities
- Culturally responsive educators

What characterizes Gifted Education strategies?

- *Content is high-end, accelerated, higher level thinking emphasized*
- *Students expected to act as 'thinking professionals' - Scientists, Writers, Coders, Mathematicians, Inventors, Artists*
- *Curiosity and Inventiveness are Encouraged*
- *As researchers students use a diverse variety of rich information sources*
- *Interdisciplinary learning is emphasized*

Shared Traits of CLD learners



Gifted Education Strategies that can help Close the Achievement Gap

<i>Gifted Education Strategies/ philosophies/ constructs</i>	<i>Benefit to CLD learners</i>	<i>Resources/Programs/ Curriculum models, etc.</i>
Focus on strengths, not weaknesses	Bringing out the best in all learners	-Advancing Differentiated Instruction for the 21st - Century (Cash, 2012) Challenge Math.com (Vaccaro)
Direct/Explicit teaching of thinking skills	Reinforcing skills needed in high end settings ; Encourage discussions that are relevant and engage all learners in problem finding/ solving	-Teachers Guide to Explicit Teaching of Thinking Skills (UConn, 2006) -Socratic Thinking (Paidea model)
Hands-On Experiential learning	Match with learning style/ Interests	Coding; Lego-Robotics

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Early experiences/ Contact with Professional Mentors in varied disciplines	Provision of role models from their ethnic group/ gender	Thinking like a Scientist; Mentoring with Scholars from culturally diverse backgrounds
Interdisciplinary content	Emphasizes connectedness between disciplines	-UStars -Science & Literacy (Coleman & Shah-Coltrane, 2009) -Concept Units (W&Mary, Ctr for Gifted Ed) -Project M3 –Mentoring Mathematical Minds
Problem-based learning	Relevancy to real world conditions	PBL with culturally relevant problems

Case Studies of gifted learners from CLD backgrounds

-THNKRs

-Young Futurists

*-Young Girls who will change the
World*

-WeAreGifted2

Q&A

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www.WeAreGifted2.blogspot.com