

ALWAYS ON TOP?

USING DATA TO DOCUMENT ACHIEVEMENT OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Are gifted students in your district successful?

What does current data tell you about the gifted students in your district? In the state?

The assumption is that all gifted students will be successful but that is not always the case. In today's data-driven climate, it is important that the achievement of gifted students be measured and documented.

What data is available to measure success?

Academic success can be measured through:

- FCAT scores for grades 3-12
- District benchmark assessments
- Grades
- Advanced Placement scores
- SAT/ACT scores
- Graduation rates

These indicators show academic achievement as compared to the standard expectations for all students.

Do FCAT scores tell the whole story?

FCAT scores are commonly used as the measure of student growth. FCAT scores provide easily accessible data and the scores are common language for school personnel and parents. Although FCAT does not provide for above level testing for gifted students, looking at student gains or growth over time will document academic achievement. Successful gifted students in your district should meet and exceed expectations on FCAT indicators.

- How does your district data compare to other districts?
- What percentage of gifted students scored at Level 4 or 5 on FCAT? At Level 1 or 2?
- Are gifted students in your district equally successful in math, reading and science?
- Are gifted students making learning gains? Making learning gains for 3+ years?
- When comparing schools within your district, can you draw any conclusions about the level of student success and gifted services provided?
- How can you use available data to improve gifted services in your district?
- Do gifted students out-perform their general education peers?



What performance data can be used to document the success of gifted students in your district?

- Project and portfolio assessment
- Above – level testing
- Talent searches such as Duke TIP
- Enrollment in advanced and honors courses
- Participation in academic competitions
- Internships
- Awards, scholarships

What performance data is unique to gifted learners?

The eligibility rule states that a gifted student is capable of high performance and eligible for special instructional programs. A well defined program with clear curriculum expectations designed to meet the needs of gifted learners is the key to high performance.

The *Florida Frameworks for Gifted Learners* sets forth seven goals for all gifted learners to acquire by graduation. When woven into the curriculum, students can demonstrate achievement of these goals which extend learning beyond the basic standards.

Educational Plans can provide an individual performance measure for gifted students. Carefully developed goals can ensure that each gifted student is making gains in his/her area of strength.

When considering data, remember not everything that is important can be measured by test scores alone. It is critical that you examine what is working in gifted education and that students in your district are given every opportunity to be successful.

