

Traits of Talented and Gifted Students in Rural Settings

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Rural Advantaged	Rural Disadvantaged
Speak standard English	Speak nonstandard regional dialect; casual, may have influence of TV
Demonstrate good verbal communication skills	Demonstrate lesser verbal communication skills
Participate actively in classroom activities	Participate passively in classroom activities
Perform tasks within time limitations	Work slowly but meticulously; are relatively unaffected by time pressures
Complete classroom assignments and homework	Fail to complete assignments and homework
Perform well in all subjects	Perform exceptionally in one subject and average and below average in others
Produce written work in proper grammatical form with good spelling and legible handwriting	Demonstrate their strengths outside the classroom, e.g., auto and tractor repair, specific knowledge to their rural environment, creativity related to 4-H projects, talent in music and the performing arts
Perform equally well on verbal and nonverbal standardized tests	Perform better on nonverbal than verbal tests; math better than language
Adapt to space limitations, such as a classroom setting	Feel constricted by a lack of space in a school setting; used to open environment
Appear eager to learn new things	Appear unmotivated, lacking goals and planning skills
Exhibit a strong sense of caring; want to make the world a better place and preserve environment, show strong sense of ethics	Behave differently; lack social skills necessary to resolve conflicts without physical action; question fairness, justice
Possess skills such as note taking, writing, researching, seeking knowledge of experts	Lack many skills that society regards as basic academic skills; discover solutions through trial and error
See value of being organized, having a plan	Fail at organization and planning, but can see patterns, relationships in certain things; have good memory and are curious
More likely to demonstrate strengths inside the classroom with knowledge specific to curriculum	More likely to demonstrate strengths outside the classroom with knowledge specific to rural environment
Have no problem with abstract or concrete thinking; the classroom is real life	Respond well to hands-on experiences, real life problems, improvising with materials