

WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Webinar Facilitator's Guide



TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE
GIFTED & TALENTED

WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Introduction

(Coordinators, consider using this introduction as you welcome your group of parents.)

A healthy partnership between school and home doesn't necessarily happen on its own. Like any true partnership, it requires clear communication, collaboration, cooperation, and trust. Above all, it takes intention.

Remember, you're not alone. There are other parents like you who struggle every day to understand and parent their kids. At the same time, you have the dedicated staff at your school to help you too. As we view the webinar, I encourage you to find one takeaway you can implement immediately to help build a stronger partnership with your child's school.

Discussion Questions

- An important tip for developing healthy partnerships is "Be Informed." Describe the things you need to know before going into a meeting with your child's school.
- What should school look like for a gifted child?
- Discuss possible messages you might have for your child's teacher.

Discussion Questions, continued

- Psychologist Dr. Sylvia Rimm created the ALLIANCE Guidelines. Which guidelines best speak to you? Which ones would be most challenging for you?

A - Ally with the teacher privately about your concerns.

L - Listen to what the teacher has observed about your child.

L - Learn about what the teacher thinks is best for your child.

I - Initiate a conversation about your child's strengths and problems.

A - Ask about experimental ideas for engaging and interesting curricular and extracurricular activities.

N - Negotiate to find appropriate adult and peer role models.

C - Consent to alternatives if experimental opportunities are not effective.

E - Extend possibilities patiently.

(Sylvia Rimm, *Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades and What You Can Do About It*, 2008, p. 189)

- Describe the characteristics of a successful school conference.

- What are the benefits of a student-led conference?

- What strategies do you want to implement with your child's teachers?

Note. Presentation material comes from Inman, T. F., & Kirchner, J. (2016). *Parenting Gifted Children 101: An Introduction to Gifted Kids and Their Needs*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

More Information

Major Reports About Gifted Education

- ***A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students* by Nicholas Colangelo, Susan G. Assouline, and Miraca U. M. Gross (The University of Iowa, The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, 2004)**

http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/nation_deceived

This seminal national study on acceleration for gifted students analyzed 50 years of research. The report discussed several types of acceleration, addressed frequently heard concerns (or myths) associated with each type, and provided research from gifted experts and authentic classroom practice to dispel the myths.

- ***A Nation Empowered: Evidence Trumps the Excuses Holding Back America's Brightest Students* by Susan G. Assouline, Nicholas Colangelo, Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, and Ann Lupkowski-Shoplik (The University of Iowa, The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, 2015)**

http://www.accelerationinstitute.org/Nation_Empowered

Written more than a decade after *A Nation Deceived* (2004), *A Nation Empowered* (2015) explored 20 forms of acceleration, highlighted the research about the positive impact on gifted students' academic and social-emotional development, and included personal vignettes from parents, teachers, and students.

- ***Mind the (Other) Gap! The Growing Excellence Gap in K-12 Education* by Jonathan Plucker, Nathan Burroughs, and Ruiting Song (University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, Center for Education Policy Analysis, 2010)**

<http://cepa.uconn.edu/home/research/mindthegap>

Using data from national assessments, researchers showed statistics that defined and explained the excellence gap, an alarming achievement gap related to gender, poverty, ethnicity, and language background among students who perform at advanced levels.

- ***Talent on the Sidelines: Excellence Gaps and America's Persistent Talent Underclass* by Jonathan Plucker, Jacob Hardesty, and Nathan Burroughs (University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, Center for Education Policy Analysis, 2013)**

<http://cepa.uconn.edu/home/research/mindthegap>

Written 3 years after *Mind the (Other) Gap* (2010), this 2013 report discusses the continued underrepresentation of low-income and minority students among those performing at the highest levels of academic achievement in the U.S. Using national assessments, researchers demonstrated that a large excellence gap still exists and continues to grow.

- Visit the NAGC web page "Key Reports in Gifted Education" for an overview and links to several other major reports: <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/key-reports-gifted-education>

Online Resources

- **National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC; <https://www.nagc.org>)**—NAGC is the leading advocacy organization for gifted education in the United States; this website contains information about many topics related to giftedness: characteristic of gifted kids, national and state regulations, identification, services, parent and teacher resources, advocacy tips, and more. While this website is free, becoming a member of NAGC has added benefits such as access to the journals *Gifted Child Quarterly* and *Parenting for High Potential*, newsletters, and webinars about issues in gifted education. Here are some NAGC web pages that might be especially helpful for parents:
 - Gifted By State: <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-state>
 - Advocacy Toolkit: <https://www.nagc.org/get-involved/advocate-high-ability-learners/advocacy-toolkit>
 - Resources for Parents: <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>
- **The Association for the Gifted, Council for Exceptional Children (TAG; <http://cectag.org>)**—TAG, a division of the Council for Exceptional Children, is an organization dedicated to promoting and advocating equity for gifted and talented children.
- **Hoagies' Gifted Education Page (<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org>)**—Described as the website for “all things gifted,” this website contains links for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and counselors.
- **“48 Essential Links for the Parents of Gifted Children” by Open Education Database (<http://oedb.org/ilibrarian/50-essential-links-for-the-parents-of-gifted-children>)**—This web page includes a wonderful collection of 48 websites, Twitter accounts, blogs, and articles that provide information, resources, and advice for parents of gifted children.
- **Dr. Sylvia Rimm's website (<http://www.sylviarimm.com>)**—This website contains numerous articles on topics such as discipline, family dynamics, underachievement, study habits, and more that apply to teachers and parents of gifted children from the preschool through teenage years.

About Dr. Tracy Ford Inman

Dr. Tracy Ford Inman has devoted her career to meeting the needs of young people, especially those who are gifted and talented. She has taught on both the high school and collegiate levels as well as in summer programs for gifted and talented youth. A Kentucky Teacher of the Year semifinalist in 1992, she now serves as Associate Director of The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU in Bowling Green, KY. Tracy has presented on the state, national, and international levels, trained hundreds of teachers in differentiation and gifted education, and published multiple articles.



Tracy is the coauthor of *Parenting Gifted Children 101*, a TAGT Legacy Book Award winner, and co-editor of *Parenting Gifted Children: The Authoritative Guide From the National Association for Gifted Children*, a compilation of the best articles in *Parenting for High Potential*, which won the Legacy Award in 2011. She is president-elect of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) and webmaster for The Association for the Gifted, a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC-TAG).

Tracy is married to John Inman, and they have two sons, Jake and Zach.

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