



Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search

NUMATS Parent Presentation

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Ohio Liaison

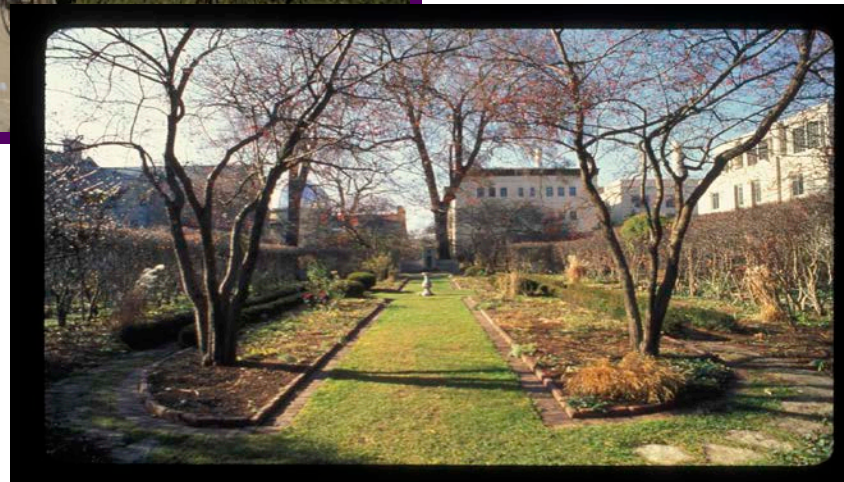


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Talent Development Approach

Gifted individuals demonstrate outstanding levels of **aptitude** (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or **competence** (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more **domains**.



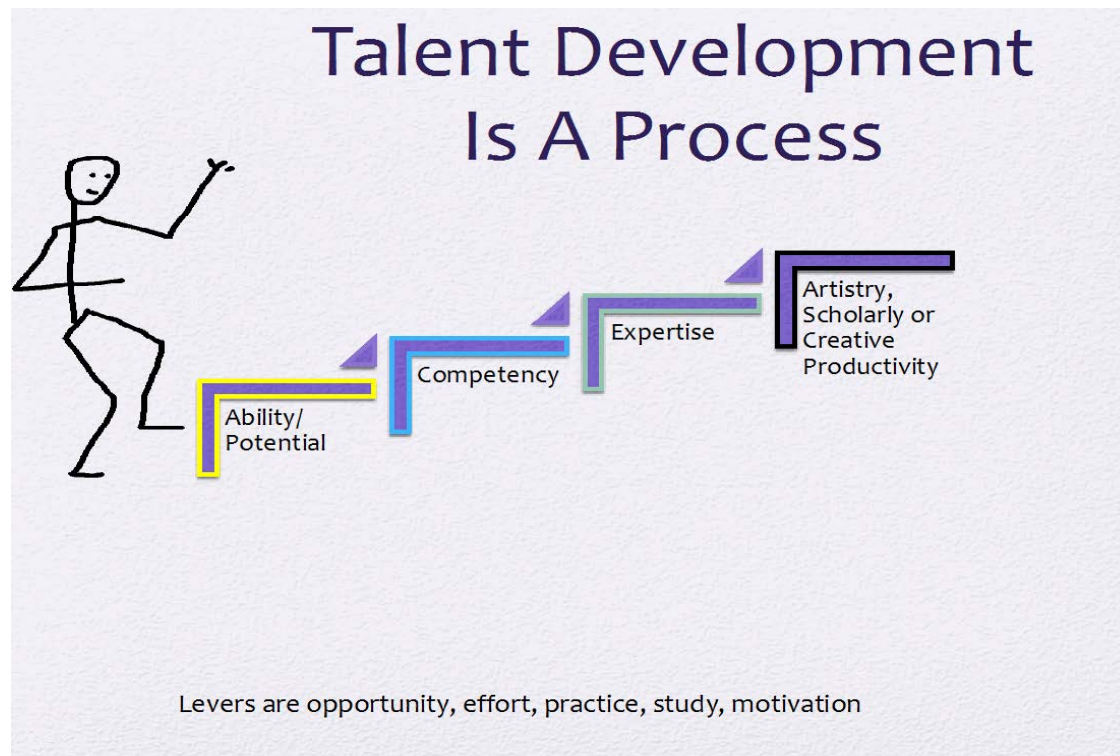
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Talent Development Approach

The development of ability or talent is a lifelong process



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The Purpose of Programs

- Short term:
 - responding to immediate needs for greater challenge and faster pacing
- Long term:
 - Moving students to the next level of talent development—i.e. developing potential into competency, competency into expertise.
 - Cultivating domain specific talents to a high degree



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Talent Development Process



Independent research and projects, mentorships, apprenticeships, authentic work in domain



School-based and outside-of-school programs that develop foundational knowledge and skills at appropriate (accelerated) pace

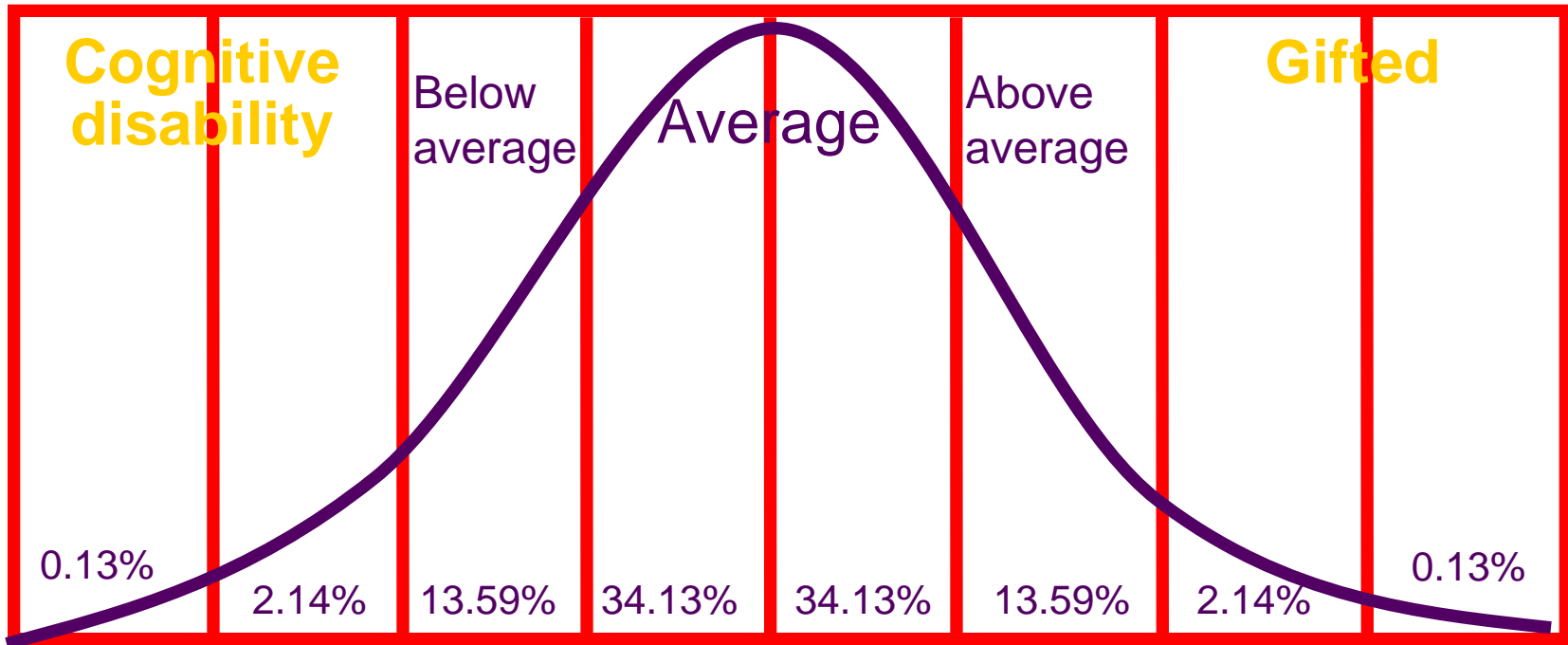


Early exposure and playful engagement through family activities, formal enrichment activities, enrichment in school



How Are Learners Different?

General Intellectual Functioning



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What do all students need?

- An articulated long-range plan for the future
- Instruction that is differentiated to meet individual student needs, thereby promoting academic growth today
- Assessment that provides an accurate measure of what students know, can do, and understand



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What do gifted students need?

- We know that undifferentiated learning opportunities do not allow gifted students to learn and grow to their potential.
- Therefore, we advocate for accelerated placements, enrichment opportunities, and differentiated *instruction*.
- In the data and accountability era, we must also advocate for differentiated *assessment*.



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Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education

“Test users should select tests that meet the **intended *purpose*** and that are ***appropriate*** for the intended ***test takers***.”

American Psychological Association
Joint Committee on Testing Practices, 2004



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The NUMATS Approach



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What is NUMATS?

- Valid assessment using above-grade-level testing
- Targeted online resources in MyCTD Toolbox that promote academic growth and facilitate educational planning
- New this year: access to CTD Backpack, an exclusive, online community for CTD parents and students



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Grade-level achievement tests and gifted students

- Gifted children often hit the ceiling on these tests, i.e., the full extent of their ability and achievement are not measured
- Do not provide an accurate measure of growth
- Do not provide a comparison with other gifted children at their same grade level
- Definite and large ability differences among students who score in the top 10 percent on grade-level achievement tests





On-Grade-Level Testing Comparison

Name	On Grade Level Test Score
Madison	99 th percentile
Jacob	99 th percentile

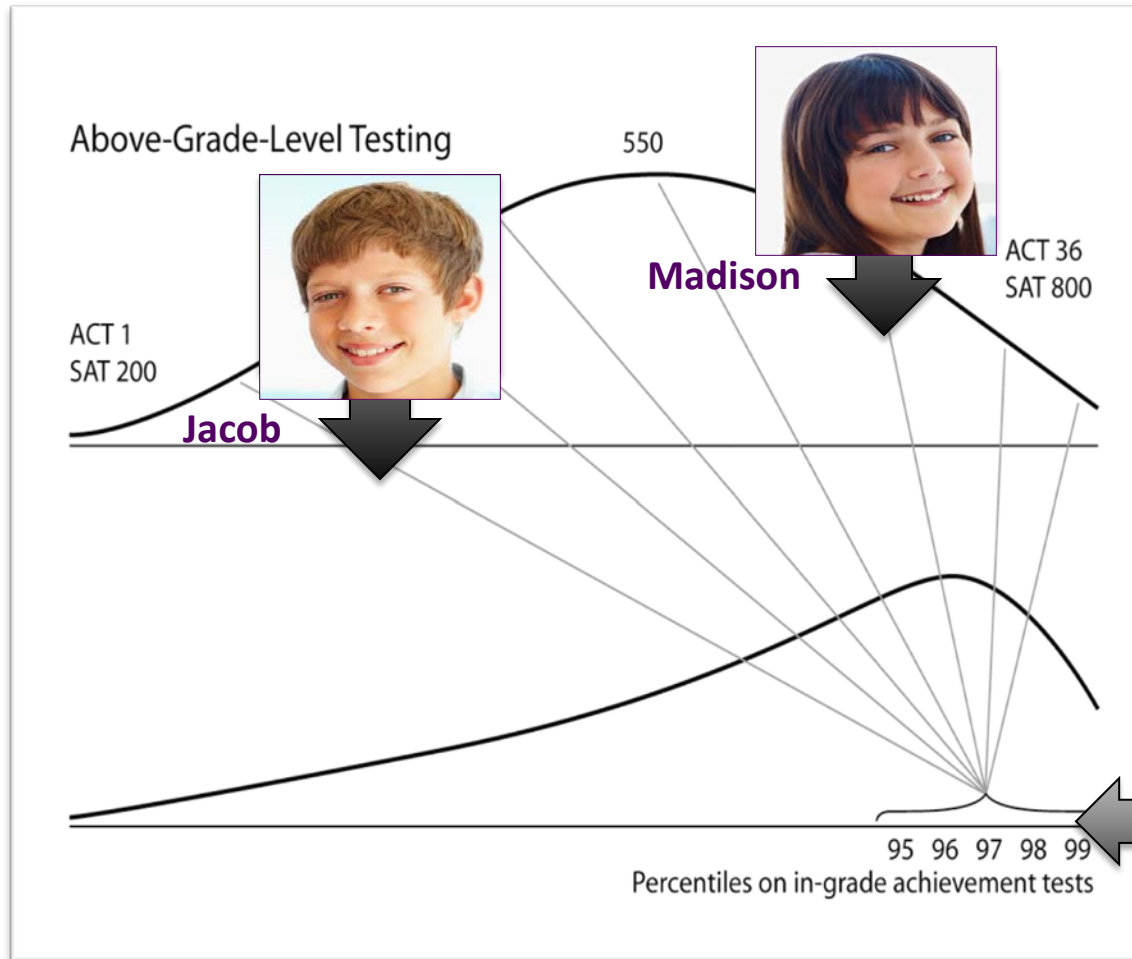


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Above-Grade-Level Testing



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Tests Offered Through NUMATS

- PSAT 8/9
 - Designed for eighth graders and is in the suite of College Board assessments.
 - Offered to students in grades 3 through 6
- ACT and SAT
 - Designed for eleventh and twelfth graders and used for college entrance
 - Offered to students in grades 6 through 9





Why These Tests?

- Designed from the beginning to predict readiness for success in college
- Superior to on-grade-level assessment for identifying advanced ability
- Guide individual students by mapping score trajectory of academic growth over time



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Just Testing is Not Enough

You've received test results.

Now what?



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Follow-up Resources Online via MyCTD Toolbox and CTD Backpack

- Personalized academic recommendations
- Guidance for and interaction with parents of gifted children on CTD Backpack
- Opportunities for gifted students to participate in enrichment activities and interact with high-ability peers in an online community called CTD Backpack, which is free and available for NUMATS participants.



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MyCTD Toolbox Demonstration

<http://my.ctd.northwestern.edu>

log in as

parent@ctd.northwestern.edu

with password provided



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- Accelerated Weekend Experience
- Civic Education Project
- Gifted LearningLinks
- Saturday Enrichment Program
- Summer Program



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How do I register for NUMATS?

<http://my.ctd.northwestern.edu>



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Gateway to Opportunity



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Questions?



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Thank you!

For more information about NUMATS

Web: www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats

E-mail: numats@ctd.northwestern.edu

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