

Fact File: Education Update on MI

Characteristics of Effective Teachers of Gifted Diverse Students

What are the common traits of gifted or advanced learners? This is a most typical question asked by most parents, teachers, and school administrators. Seldom will people ask about what are the characteristics of **teachers of gifted students possess** or, to put it more practically or realistically, **effective teachers of potentially gifted students of diversity.**

From an authentic setting as in G.T. College, we might be able to come to some generalization via regular observation of the MI teacher traits, for example, a higher level of creativity and deep thinking in the teaching material and in the classroom, a higher level of tolerance and respect for the MI students.

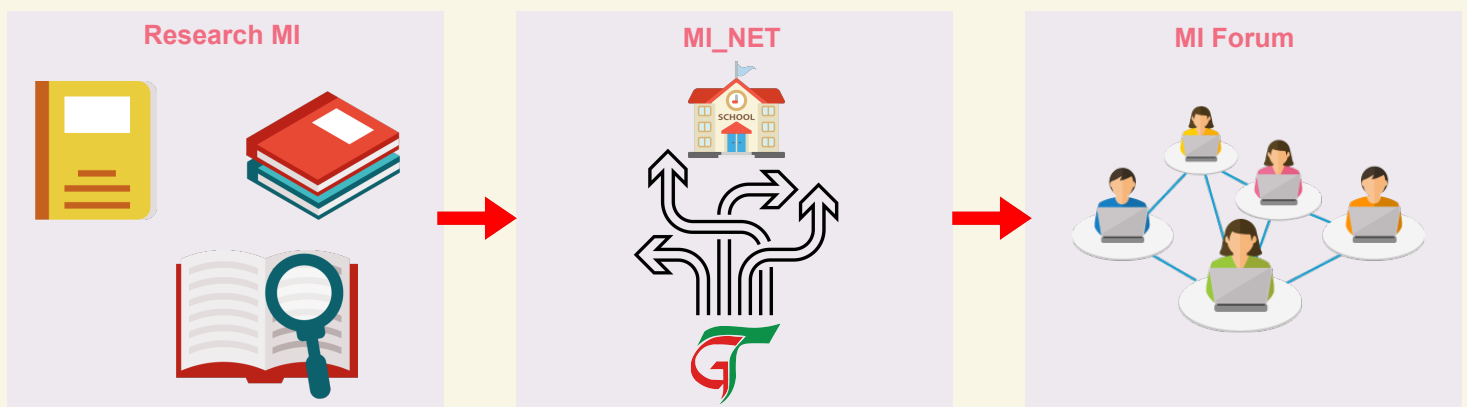
However, readers of *Research MI* might want to learn more about how the **academics or researchers** have found out about this topic. A journal article in 2001 has summed up the **general characteristics of effective teachers of gifted students:**

- Knowledge of the nature and needs of gifted students.
- Ability to develop methods and materials for use with gifted students.
- Skills in individualized teaching.
- Skills in teaching higher-level thinking skills and questioning techniques.
- Ability to identify gifted students.
- Seek to develop students' self-concept.
- Skills in counseling gifted students.
- Skills in creating an environment in which gifted students feel challenged and safe to explore and express their uniqueness.

Which characteristics and how much have you noticed in yourself or the teaching practitioners in your community? Rather than dwelling on the “Have or Have-not,” the next most crucial question other than the one above might be—**If I don't have, can I receive some training or how can I train to have some of the characteristics in order to be an effective teacher of potentially gifted or MI students?**

There is an Absolute YES to the Question above.

Research MI should be a most faithful and resourceful partner to you on your way to your career advancement. There will be a MI school network (MIS_NET) to be established in 2022, by G.T. College and its network schools for the MI learning community. Stay tuned. If you will like to join MIS_NET, send an email of interest to Research MI (researchmi@gtcollege.edu.hk).



Note. 2001 From Teachers of gifted students: Suggested multicultural characteristics and competencies. 23(4), by Donna Y. Forda & Michelle Frazier Trotman. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02783190109554111>.