

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

Individuals seeking licensure as gifted and talented teacher must complete a master's degree or must complete a minimum of a 15-18-hour graduate-level program of study. In addition to the Arkansas Teaching Standards, the teacher of Gifted and Talented, grades K-12, shall demonstrate knowledge and competencies in the following areas:

## 1. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

NAGC: STANDARD 1  
PRAXIS 5358: SECTION 1  
AR GT PAS: SECTION 7.00

**NAGC Standard 1:** *Educators understand the variations in learning and development in cognitive, affective, and psychosocial areas between and among individuals with gifts and talents, creating learning environments that encourage awareness and understanding of interest, strengths, and needs; cognitive growth, social and emotional, and psychosocial skill development in school, home, and community settings*

1.1 Knows the advanced developmental milestones of gifted students in all domains, from early childhood through adolescence

- physical
- social/emotional
- cognitive
- communicative
- adaptive

1.2 Knows how asynchronous development relates to giftedness

1.3 Knows early indicators of giftedness

- advanced verbal ability
- curiosity and imagination
- early achievement of milestones
- ability to focus attention intensely
- accelerated rate of learning

1.4 Knows indicators of giftedness in all stages of development

1.5 Knows the role of stakeholders in supporting the development of giftedness

1.6 Understands the similarities and differences between gifted students and the general student population

1.7 Knows similarities and differences among gifted students

1.8 Knows the characteristics associated with different types of giftedness

- intellectual
- academic
- creative
- leadership
- visual and performing arts

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

- 1.9 Knows the cognitive characteristics of gifted students
  - memory focus, capacity for learning, metacognition
  - originality, creativity, innovation, insight
  - rate of learning, breadth and depth of knowledge
  - analogical thinking and reasoning, communication skills
  - abstract and conceptual learning
  
- 1.10 Knows the range of social and emotional characteristics of gifted students
  - perfectionism, persistence
  - emotional intensity, idealism, empathy
  - intrinsic motivation, self-awareness
  - sense of humor
  - preference for intellectual peers
  
- 1.11 Knows a variety of factors that may affect the development of gifted students
  - socioeconomic status, culture, English-language proficiency
  - race, gender, ethnicity, peer relationships
  - availability of services and quality of instruction
  - age of identification, home support and environment
  - coexisting conditions and exceptionalities
  
- 1.12 Knows common stereotypes associated with gifted students socially shy and inept
  - excel in all academic areas
  - lack of interest in nonacademic pursuits
  - capable of learning on their own
  - easily identified
  
- 1.13 Knows a variety of causes for underachievement in gifted students
  - cultural inferences
  - pressure to conform
  - fear of failure, low self-esteem, boredom
  - lack of a supportive academic environment
  - unsupportive family environment
  - transience (frequent moves)
  
- 1.14 Knows the coexisting conditions that may affect gifted students
  - giftedness and ADHD
  - giftedness and literacy disabilities
  - giftedness and learning disabilities
  - giftedness and autism

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

## 2. LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

NAGC: STANDARD 4

PRAXIS 5358: SECTION 2

AR GT PAS: SECTION 8.00  
& 9.00

**NAGC Standard 4:** *Learning environments foster a love for learning, personal and social responsibility, multicultural competence, and interpersonal and technical communication skills for leadership to ensure specific student outcomes*

2.1 Understands the impact of a safe, equitable, positive, and supportive learning environment

2.2 Knows the continuum of placement and delivery of options for gifted students such as:

- general education classes with differentiation
- cluster grouping
- pull-out and self-contained classes
- special, alternative, and virtual schools
- dual enrollment
- acceleration

2.3 Knows the influence of social and emotional development on the learning of gifted students and that gifted students may have idiosyncratic learning patterns

2.4 Knows strategies for developing the nonacademic skills of gifted students such as:

- social competence
- leadership
- resilience
- self-efficacy
- risk taking

2.5 Shows familiarity with how identification and delivery models are related

2.6 Knows how to create a learning environment that addresses the characteristics and needs of gifted students

- adapting the curriculum, content, process, and product
- aligning instruction with standards and benchmarks
- selecting resources to meet the interests of gifted students
- adapting resources to meet the needs of individual students
- addressing the strengths and limitations of individual students
- offering a broad array of resources for learning

2.7 Uses instructional activities specific to the development of complex cognitive processes

- comparing and contrasting
- analyzing, inferring, predicting
- evaluating, categorizing, synthesizing
- decision making, creating
- generalizing

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

- 2.8 Knows methods for promoting higher levels of thinking
  - reflecting, supporting positions
  - challenging assumptions, drawing conclusions
- 2.9 Knows strategies for addressing underachievement in gifted students
  - offering choice-based learning
  - supporting incremental goal setting
  - establishing supportive partnerships
  - recognizing success
- 2.10 Knows how to establish and maintain rapport with gifted students
  - communicating expectations for student performance
  - communicating expectations for student behavior in a variety of settings
- 2.11 Knows the tools for adapting a learning environment based on input from students and other stakeholders
  - preassessment
  - learning environments
  - interpretation of test results and performance evaluations
  - consultation and collaboration with other stakeholders



## 3. CURRICULUM PLANNING AND INSTRUCTION

NAGC: STANDARD 3 & 5

PRAXIS 5358: SECTION 3  
AR GT PAS: SECTION 8.00  
& 9.00

**NAGC Standard 3:** *Educators apply evidence-based models of curriculum and instruction related to students with gifts and talents and respond to their needs by planning, selecting, adapting, and creating curriculum that is responsive to diversity. Educators use a repertoire of instructional strategies to ensure specific student outcomes and measurable growth*

**NAGC Standard 5:** *Educators use evidence-based practices to promote (a) the cognitive, social-emotional, and psychosocial skill development of students with gifts and talents and (b) programming that meets their interests, strengths, and needs. Educators make use of expertise systematically and collaboratively to develop, implement, manage, and evaluate services for students with a variety of gifts and talents to ensure specific student outcomes*

- 3.1 Understands the basic concept of curriculum development for gifted students
  - centered and important concepts
  - involving the structures of the discipline
  - utilizing tools of inquiry
  - increasing levels of intellectual challenge through learning progressions
  - developing scope and sequence
  - aligning with standards and benchmarks
  - increasing depth and rigor
  - modifying existing curricula

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

3.2 Knows major models for developing curriculum for gifted students, as they relate to

- incorporating content mastery (subject based)
- infusing process-product (skill based)
- focusing on concepts (theme based)

3.3 Knows how to differentiate the general education curriculum to meet the needs of gifted students, including

- increasing complexity and depth of content
- modifying the pace of learning
- creating opportunities for creativity and innovation
- allowing opportunities for independent study

3.4 Knows how to select instructional content, resources, and strategies appropriate for gifted students

3.5 Knows how to adapt content, strategies, and resources appropriate to the needs of individual students

3.6 Knows how to design instruction that provides opportunities for students to investigate and extend areas of interest or talent

3.7 Knows how to plan instruction for enhancing the communication skills of gifted students, including advanced oral and written communication tools

3.8 Knows how to plan opportunities for gifted students to access and use technology in innovative ways

3.9 Knows the academic and career guidance that must be integrated into instruction

- academic and vocational assessment
- shadowing and internships
- mentors and role models

3.10 Knows the importance of involving students in planning, implementing, and evaluating their learning

3.11 Knows the types of assessment data that are used to inform instruction

- formal and informal
- summative and formative
- pre- and post-assessment
- performance-based

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

3.12 Knows that a number of variables may affect how individuals students learn and perform

- culture, socioeconomic status, gender
- prior knowledge and experience
- self-confidence, self-esteem
- developmental readiness, asynchrony
- coexisting conditions and exceptionalities

3.13 Knows how to develop observable and measurable instructional objectives

3.14 Knows how to develop and implement lesson plans

3.15 Knows a variety of strategies for instructing gifted students

- higher-level questioning
- problem-based learning
- inquiry-based learning
- differentiated learning

3.16 Knows how to pace instruction to meet the needs of individuals students and that different strategies may be required for teaching gifted students with diverse cultural and linguistic needs

3.17 Knows strategies for developing metacognitive thinking in gifted students

- modeling thought processes in content areas
- developing self-regulation
- encouraging and supporting reflection
- asking complex questions

3.18 Knows methods of facilitating the transfer of knowledge and skills in specific areas of student development

- generalizations
- synthesis within and across disciplines
- integration of conceptual understanding

3.19 Knows strategies for teaching students self-advocacy and self-regulatory skills

3.20 Knows how to use student responses and performance for guiding instruction and providing feedback

3.21 Knows strategies for addressing the needs of the profoundly gifted

- adjusting age restrictions
- increasing access to appropriate learning opportunities
- adapting peer settings to meet academic and social needs
- employing radical acceleration
- locating content experts

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

## 4. ASSESSMENT

NAGC: STANDARD 2

PRAXIS 5358: SECTION 4

AR GT PAS: SECTION 7.00

**NAGC Standard 2:** *Assessments provide information about identification and learning progress for students with gifts and talents*

4.1 Knows the basic terminology used in assessment

- validity, reliability, mean, median, mode
- raw score, scaled score, stanine, percentile
- normal distribution, standard deviation, standard error of measurement
- grade-equivalent scores, age-equivalent scores
- norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests
- ceiling effect, out-of-level testing

4.2 Knows assessment instruments and their uses, strengths, and limitations

- observations
- checklists
- parent or teacher recommendations
- portfolio, work samples

4.3 Knows the various purposes of assessment

- planning and instruction
- documenting growth
- identification
- placement

4.4 Knows the legal and ethical practices related to the identification, assessment, and placement of gifted students

- confidentiality of educational records
- nondiscriminatory assessment
- state and district regulations
- national and local norms

4.5 Knows how to develop assessments to measure student learning and progress

4.6 Knows how to report assessment data to stakeholders

4.7 Knows how to interpret assessment data for making placement and program decisions

4.8 Knows the processes and procedures for referring and identifying gifted students

4.9 Knows commonly used qualitative assessments associated with identifying giftedness, such as

- observations
- checklists
- parent or teacher recommendations
- portfolios, work samples

# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

4.10 Knows commonly used quantitative assessments associated with identifying giftedness, such as

- creativity tests
- achievement tests
- aptitude tests
- IQ tests

4.11 Shows familiarity alternative assessments for identifying giftedness in special populations

4.12 Knows the importance of using multiple criteria for identifying giftedness

4.13 Knows factors that can lead to the over-, under-, or misidentification of gifted students

- gender role, ethnicity, stigma
- cultural factors, social status, economic status
- parental pressure
- coexisting exceptionalities, such as behavioral issues, learning differences, etc.
- English language proficiency
- testing bias
- teacher expectations and misconceptions

**NAGC Standard 6:** *All educators (administrators, teachers, counselors, and other instructional support staff) build their knowledge and skills using the NAGC-CEC Teacher Preparation Standards in Gifted and Talented Education, (NAGC-CEC) Advanced Standards in Gifted Education Teacher Preparation, Arkansas Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards and the Standards for Professional Learning. Institutions of higher education utilize these standards and the NAGC Faculty Standards to ensure quality professional learning experiences in pre-service, initial, and advanced educator preparation programs. Educators frequently assess their professional learning needs related to the standards, develop and monitor their professional learning plans, systematically engage in coaching and learning to meet their identified needs, and align outcomes with educator performance and student curriculum standards. Administrators assure educators have access to sustained, intensive collaborative, job-embedded, and data-driven learning and assure adequate resources to provide for release time, fund continuing education, and offer substitute support. The effectiveness of professional learning is assessed through relevant student outcomes*

5.1 Knows the major foundations, theories, and philosophies of gifted education

- historical foundations
- major contributions
- varying conceptions of giftedness

## 5. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

NAGC: STANDARD 6

PRAXIS 5358: SECTION 5

AR GT PAS: SECTION 5.00



# COMPETENCIES FOR TEACHERS: GIFTED AND TALENTED, GRADES K-12

5.2 Knows the major legislation regarding the education of gifted students

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Javits Act
- state laws

5.3 Knows the legal and ethical implications of laws, regulations, and court cases related to the rights of students and teachers

- equal access
- privacy and confidentiality
- intellectual freedom
- licensing/certification
- Arkansas Gifted and Talented Program Approvals

5.4 Knows the rationales, principles, and goals of gifted education

- existence of individual differences
- benefit to society of the development of giftedness
- diverse perspectives on the conceptions of giftedness
- entitlement of gifted students to an education that supports the attainment of their full potential

5.5 Knows the publications and professional organizations relevant to the field of gifted education, such as

- Journal for the Education of the Gifted
- Teaching for High Potential
- Parenting for High Potential
- Gifted Child Quarterly, Gifted Child Today
- National Association for Gifted Children {NAGC}
- Council for Exceptional Children {CEC}
- Council for Exceptional Children, The Association for the Gifted {CEC-TAG}
- Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education {AGATE}
- Arkansas Association of Gifted Education Administrators

5.6 Knows how to locate and evaluate information on issues, trends, and research in the field of gifted education

5.7 Knows how to apply theory and research in gifted education to instructional practice

5.8 Knows how to collaborate with colleagues and school personnel to address the academic, emotional, and social needs of gifted students

5.9 Knows how to use reflective practice to improve instructional practice

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5.10 Knows how to collaborate with stakeholders to advocate for services for gifted students

5.11 Knows how to serve as a resource for supplementary opportunities for gifted students outside of school

- summer and weekend programs
- conventions and competitions
- special interest organizations

5.12 Knows the impact of giftedness on individuals, families, and society across the life span

- knows the common emotional reactions to gifted individuals
- knows the stressors and challenges associated with gifted individuals and family members
- knows ways that gifted individuals can affect the school and greater communities and society as a whole

5.13 Knows strategies to help families understand the implications of student's giftedness and provides strategies for supporting the student's development and learning

- initiating and maintaining relationships with family members
- providing information about resources that support families

5.14 Knows a variety of strategies for communicating with parents and caregivers about students' progress and needs

5.15 Knows the role of an advocate for gifted education and is a resource for parents and caregivers, school personnel, and members of the community for information relating to gifted students and their educational experience