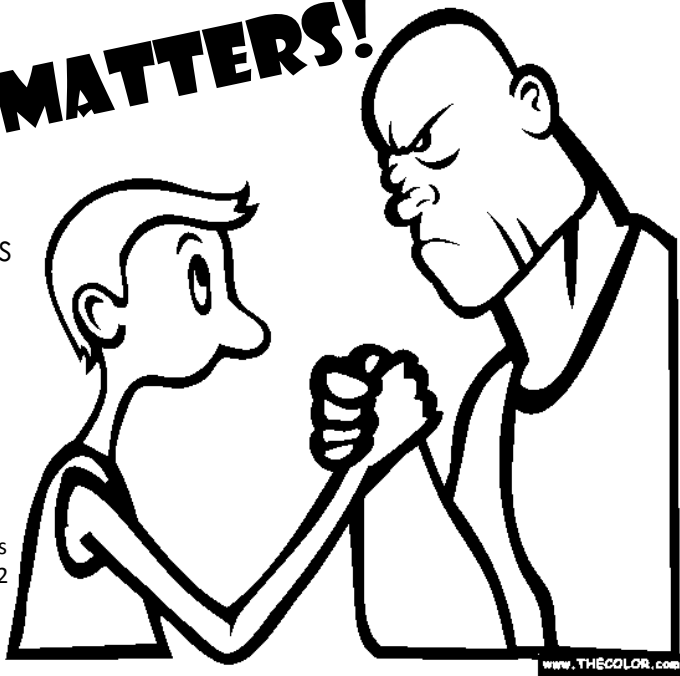# SIZE MATTERS!

Three Perspectives on District Services: **Austin, MN**

David Wolff
MEGT President-Elect
District Coordinator of
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Austin Public Schools #492

Austin
MN

## OH YEAH, AUSTIN...TEXAS???

Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

About 53 Languages spoken

14-15 Kindergarten Cohort:
50.3% White
30.7% Hispanic
9.6% Black
8.9% Asian
64.6% F/R Lunch

K-12 Population of: 4,797

Austin, MN

Population of: 24,718

	Austin	Minneapolis	St. Paul	Rochester	Duluth
American Indian	0.3%	4.3%	1.8%	0.5%	6.4%
Asian	4.5	7.2	31.2	11.8	2.4
Hispanic	25.9	18.5	13.9	8.8	2.2
Black	8.5	36.9	30.2	13.7	8.5
White	60.7	33.1	22.9	65.3	80.5
EL	16.7	24.6	32.8	12	0.4
F/R Lunch	57.4	64.8	73.2	36.9	47.1

The Hormel Foundation
Dedicated to the support of local organizations since 1941
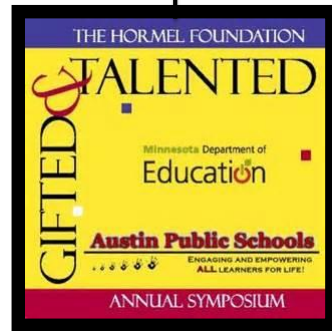
Elementary Students receiving Gifted & Talented Services

2011-12 School Year [K-5]

Group	Number of Students
Student access to GT Services	215
# White	174
# Hispanic	19
# Black	12
# Asian	10
# Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	N/A
# Receive EL Services	N/A
# Receive SpEd Services	N/A

Challenges Δ:

Equity – equitable access to advanced academics for ALL learners including culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse learners and 2E learners.

Service Model Redesign

January 2013-May 2013

- Purpose: to research various services models for gifted learners in grades 1-4.

October 2013 to December 2013

- Purpose: to design and recommend a service model for gifted learners
- based on the Continuum of Services
- that fits within budget parameters.

Committee Membership:

- Principals
- Coordinator
- GT Interventionists
- Reading Interventionist
- Classroom Teachers
- Counselor
- School Board Members
- Parents

K-6 Tiered Services

Tier 1 – Access for **ALL** students

- Total School Clustering Model
- Professional Development

Tier 2 – Access for **MANY** students

- Flexible Grouping
- Young Scholars
- Project E^3 [*after school hours*]
- G/T Interventionists Push-In
- 3.5 FTE at K-4 Schools

Tier 3 – Access for **FEW** students

- Personalized Instruction
- 2.0 FTE at Pi Academy [*Gr. 1-4 Multi-age*]
- Grades 5 & 6 GT Cohorts

Elementary Students receiving Gifted & Talented Services

2014-15 School Year [K-4]

Group	Number of Students
Student access to GT Services	355
# White	229
# Hispanic	75
# Black	32
# Asian	19
# Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	170
# Receive EL Services	55
# Receive SpEd Services	27

2011-12 School Year [K-5]

Group	Number of Students
Student access to GT Services	215
# White	174
# Hispanic	19
# Black	12
# Asian	10
# Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	N/A
# Receive EL Services	N/A
# Receive SpEd Services	N/A

Tier 1: Total School Clustering Model

Tier 1: Professional Development

Tier 2: Flexible Small Groups

Tier 2: Young Scholars

Tier 2: Project E^3

www.projecte3.weebly.com

Tier 3: Pi [π] Academy

Pi [π] Academy's Mission & Goals

Goals

Mission

The mission of Pi [π] Academy is to provide **personalized instruction** to develop, enhance, and maximize the development of intellectually gifted learners in Austin Public School District.

a) providing **daily, challenging learning opportunities** with cognitive-like peers in a safe learning community,

b) providing **curriculum and resources to meet individual learning needs**, and

c) increasing **understanding of self and others** to build relationships.

Who qualifies for Pi Academy?

Using the Lohman & Renzulli Scale

Using multiple criteria – ability and achievement data

- Math + Quantitative/Nonverbal
- Reading + Verbal

"An inclusive model" – McBee, M.; Peters, S.; Waterman, C. (2014) Combining Scores in Multiple Criteria Assessment Systems: The Impact of Combination Rule. *Gifted Child Quarterly*. 69-89.

Local Percentile Rank [LPR]	Points
80, 81, 82, 83	1
84, 85, 86, 87, 88	2
89, 90, 91, 92	3
93, 94, 95	4
96, 97	5
98	6
99	7

Challenge

- 4 questions about 'Challenge' in topics taught in Pi Academy

  ➢ The activities I do in my class are challenging.

  ➢ I have to think to solve problems in my class.

  ➢ I challenge myself by trying new things.

  ➢ I am challenged to do my best in class.

OCTOBER
63% of responses indicated Often/Always
31% of responses indicated Sometimes
7% of responses indicated Never

JUNE
74% of responses indicated Often/Always
20% of responses indicated Sometimes
8% of responses indicated Never

I am a good leader

That if I try hard enough, I can do anything

I can learn more if I try harder

That I can be pushed

What have you learned about yourself this year?

Challenge is a good thing

How far I can push myself

I never give up; even when the work is hard

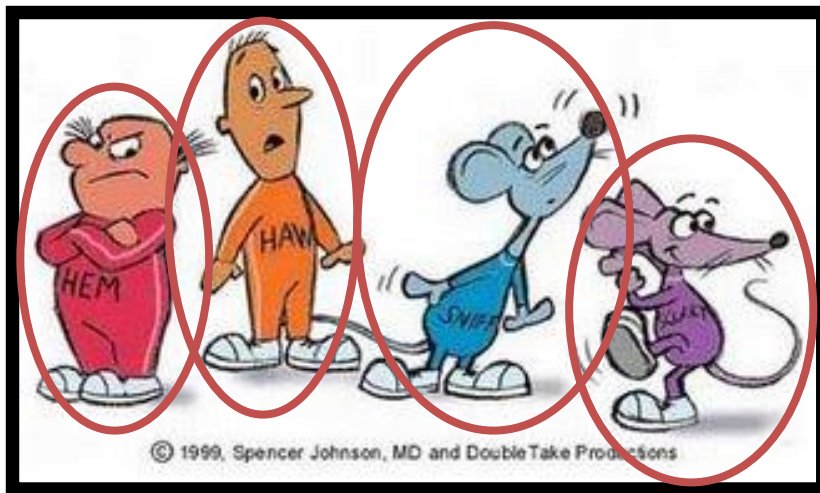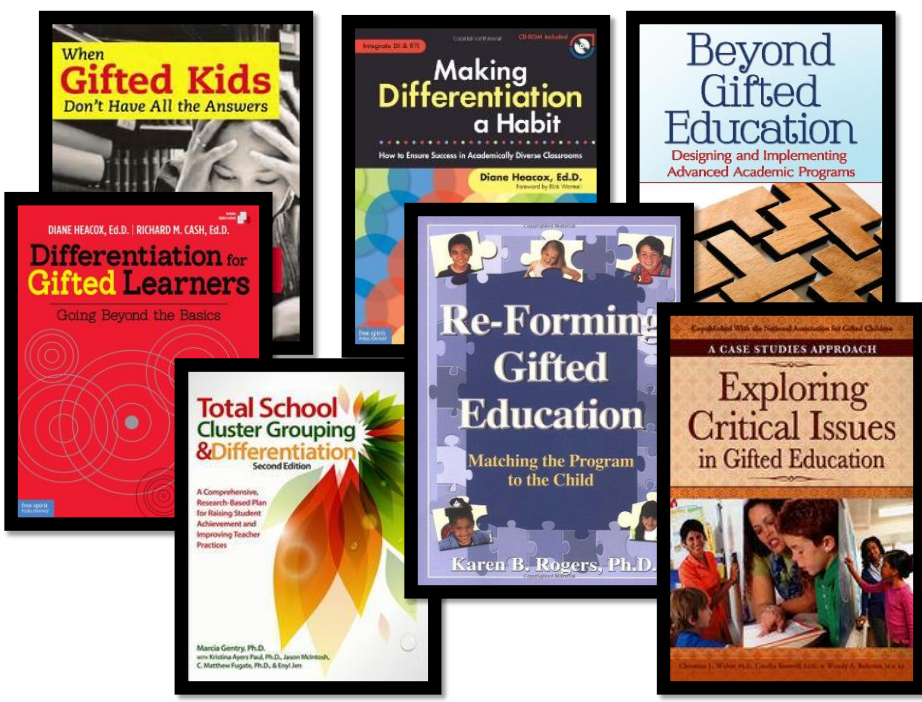I am smarter than I thought I was

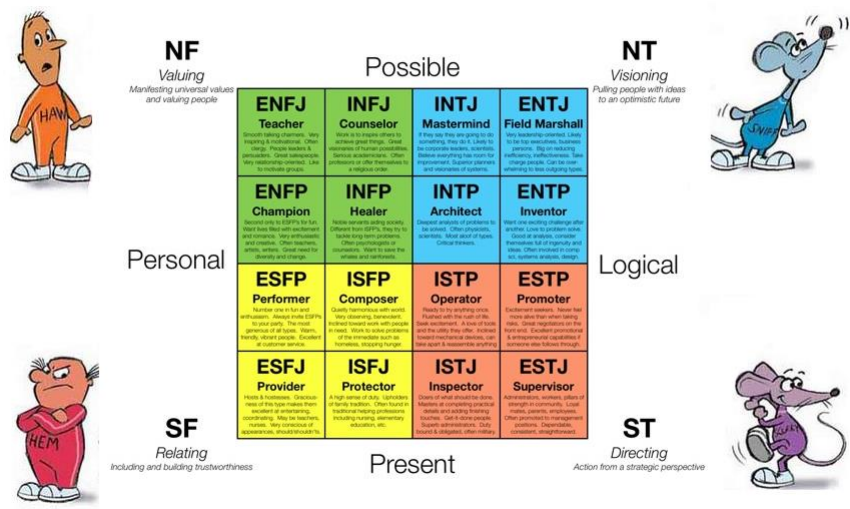I like to learn new stuff

Tier 3: Grade 5 & 6 GT Cohorts

Lessons Learned

1. Need for consensus rather than agreement.

2. Accept being a broken record.

3. Accept not being "Voted Most Popular"

4. Shared Visions

5. Change is difficult for many.
   – Change in values.
   – Change in perspective.
   – Change in philosophy.

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David's Go To Web Resources