

# Gifted Programs: A Deeper Look

Megan Kaufman

&

Dr. Katie Leckenby



g · i · f · t · e · d

## Pennsylvania Department of Education

- “outstanding intellectual and creative ability the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services”

### Distinguishing Characteristics:

- capacity to learn faster, more in-depth and with greater complexity
- capacity to find, solve, and act on problems more readily
- capacity to manipulate abstract ideas and make connections.

## Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities

–5 areas of intensity:

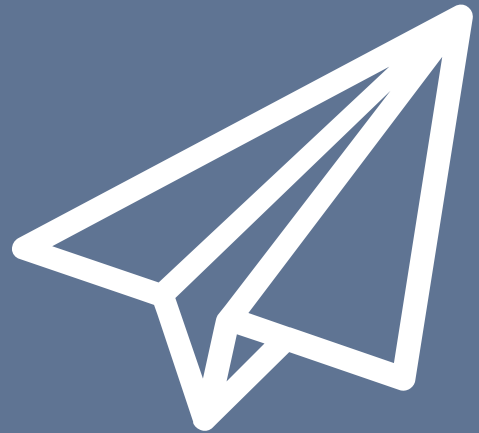


- intellectual
- imaginal
- sensual
- psychomotor
- emotional

# Project Background

## The Problem:

- Gifted students not getting the support their minds need
  - Lack of:
    - Certification area/teacher requirements
    - Curriculum
    - State guidelines
  - Personal experience with program variety



# Qualifying for Programs

## Quantitative

- IQ Testing
- Psychological Evaluation
- PSSA Scores
- Grades



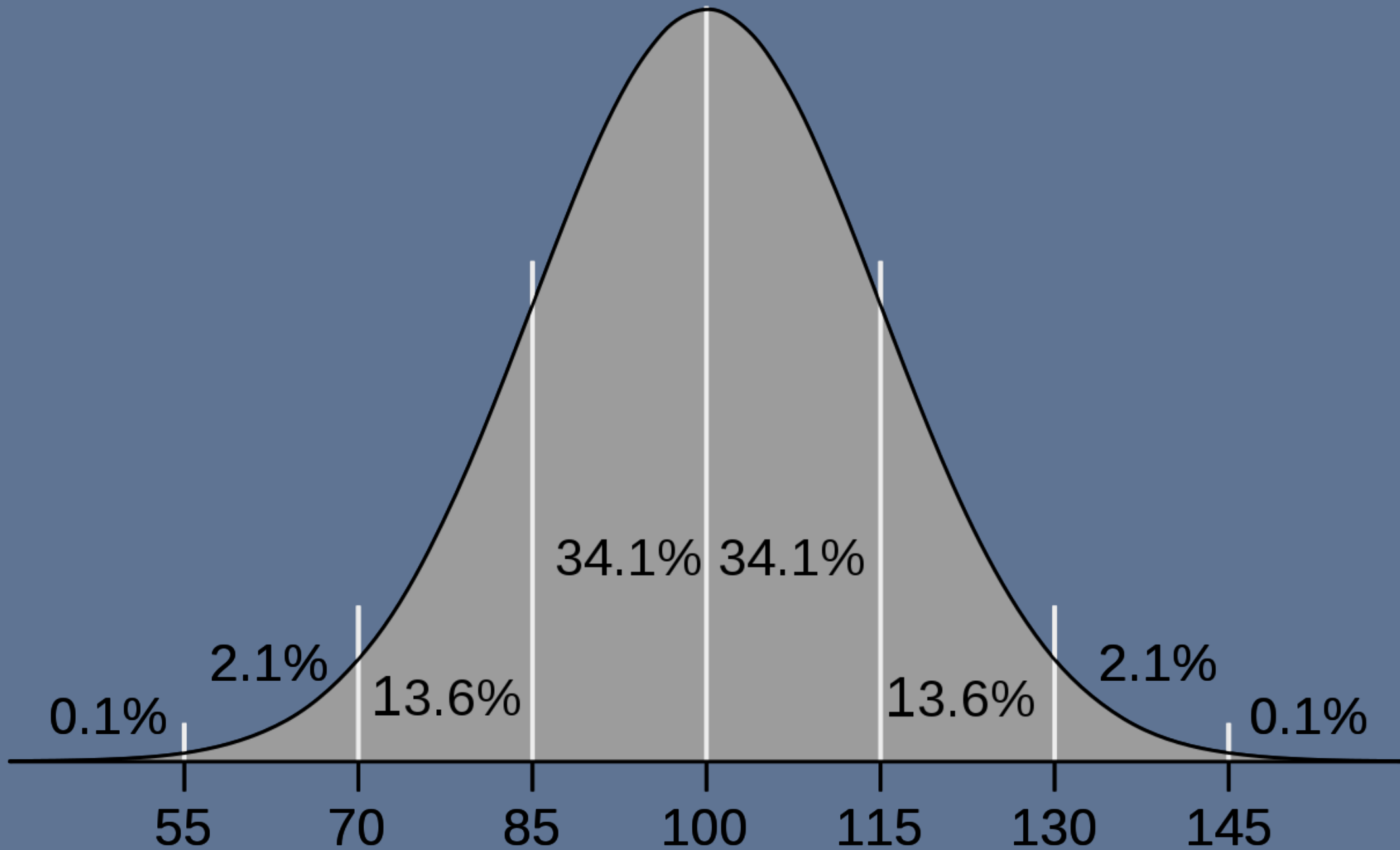
## Qualitative

- Teacher recommendation
- Parent recommendation
- Characteristics:
  - Advanced emotional depth
  - Ability to comprehend advanced material quickly
  - Boredom in regular classroom
  - Strong memory
  - Thinking outside the box
  - Perfectionism

# The Forgotten Side of Special Education

- Giftedness is under researched.
- Lack of gifted education laws
- Underfunded programs
- Conducting research in schools is difficult.





# Consequences

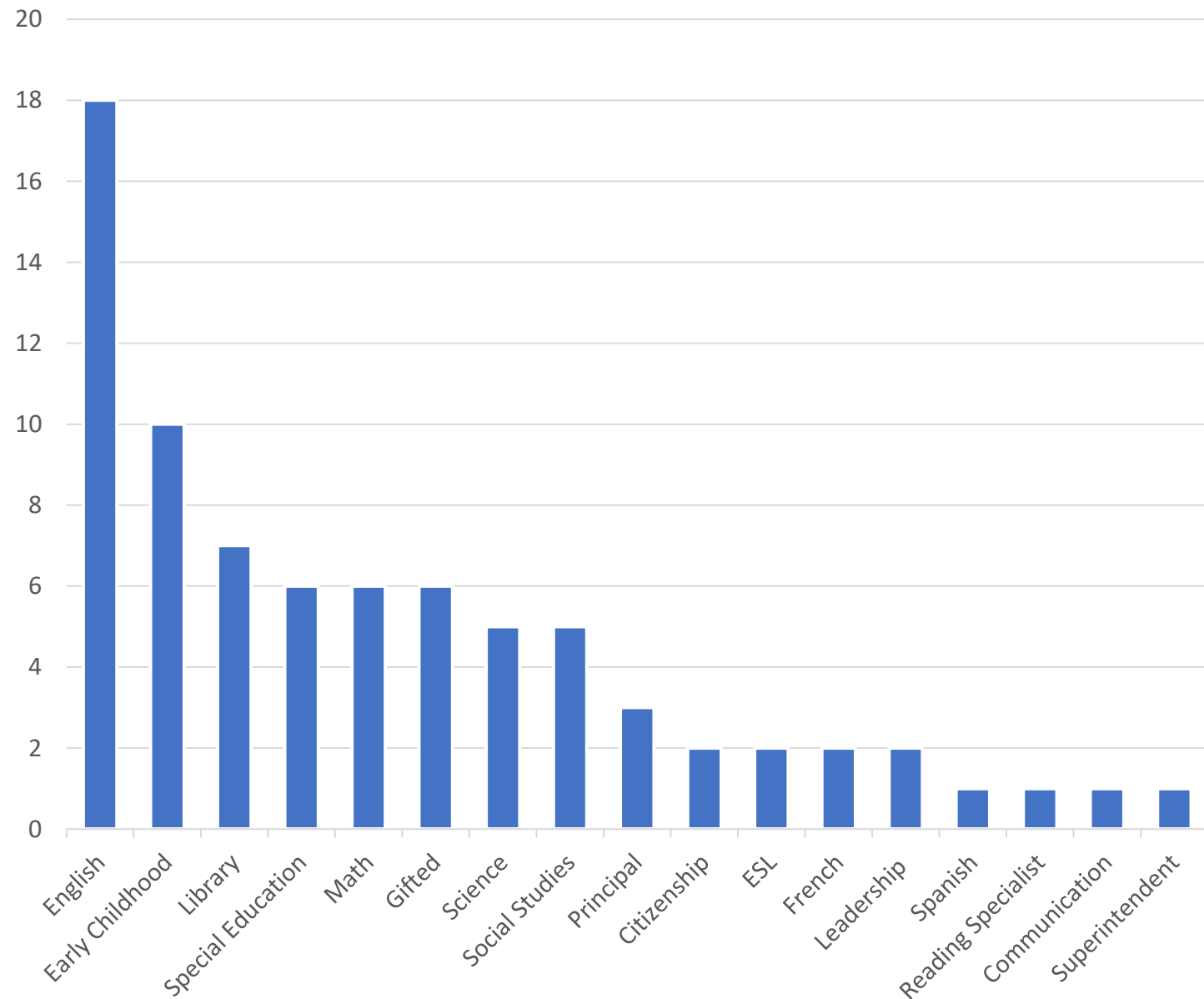
- A study Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt Universities found that although gifted students could master information quickly, “schools often couldn’t accommodate their pace...Teachers often focused on helping the slow learners in the classroom instead”
- Results: frustration, boredom, loss of motivation, lower academic achievement by gifted students



# Current Findings

- Wide variety of:
  - Teaching certifications
  - Classroom environments
  - Activities
  - Structure
  - Identification methods

## Certifications Held by Gifted Teachers in 27 PA Middle Schools





# Goals

- Educate parents, teachers, students, and state legislators about:
  - Needs of gifted youth
  - Consequences when needs are not met
  - The potential that is unlocked when gifted students are nurtured
  - The benefits of satisfactory gifted education for the wellbeing of gifted youth



“IF YOU’RE TRYING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD  
LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE AND TERRORISM AND STEM  
INNOVATION...YOU WANT INTELLECTUALLY PRECOCIOUS  
YOUTH WHO HAVE HAD THEIR INTELLECTUAL NEEDS MET”

-DR. DAVID LUBINSKI

# Resources

- <https://www.steppingstoneschool.org/10-characteristics-of-gifted-children-2/>
- <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Gifted%20Education/Gifted%20Program%20Guidelines.pdf>
- [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/39/IQ\\_distribution.svg/1280px-IQ\\_distribution.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/39/IQ_distribution.svg/1280px-IQ_distribution.svg.png)