

Personal Factors that Can Contribute to Underachievement in Gifted Students

Such factors include, but are not limited to:

PEER GROUP AND SOCIALIZATION

- An active social life
- Wanting to fit in with the underachieving peer group
- Friends in crisis
- Rejecting peer values
- Alienation of teachers and peers with sarcasm or criticism
- Involvement in an abusive relationship
- Unusual interests that are ridiculed by peers
- Inappropriate social behavior

DEMANDING SCHEDULE

- Participating in state or national competitions that take time from classes
- Preparing a project for a major competition
- Working long hours after school
- Spending excessive time on the telephone or Internet

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- Course schedule that does not reflect student interest or values
- Conflict with teachers
- Boredom with low-level instruction
- Rebellion against adult expectations and standards
- Hyperactivity or hyperdistractability
- Pointing out instructional errors
- Lack of requisite skills
- Prior mastery of information or skills
- Failure to complete assignments

PERSONAL ISSUES

- Adolescent anger and rebellion
- Anxiety
- Perfectionism
- Substance abuse or experimentation
- Depression
- Eccentric attitude and interest