

## WORKING WITH GIFTED STUDENTS: Effective Use of Distance Education

### Templeton National Report on Acceleration

The Templeton National Report on Acceleration (2004) states:

- Acceleration is the most effective curriculum intervention for gifted children.
- For bright students, acceleration has long-term beneficial effects, both academically and socially.
- When bright students are presented with curriculum developed for age-peers, they can become bored and unhappy and get turned off from learning.
- Gifted students entering college early experience both short-term and long-term academic success, leading to long-term occupational success and personal satisfaction.

Many alternatives to full-time early college entrance are available for bright high school students who prefer to stay with age-peers. These include dual enrollment in high school and college, distance education, and summer programs. Advanced Placement® (AP) is the best large-scale option for bright students who want to take college-level courses in high school.

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The key question for educators is not whether to accelerate a gifted learner but rather how.

### Prior Indicators of Probable Student Success with Distance Education/Online Learning

The student ...

- is processing and achieving well beyond grade-level peers in specific academic area.
- has strong achievement need.
- shows strength in planning and communication precision.
- is independent in thought and action, persistent in own interests, enjoys learning, is good at structuring and organizing tasks and own time, socially mature.
- prefers independent and self-instructional learning.
- prefers fast-paced challenge in learning.
- has intense interest in specific academic area.
- has wide-ranging activities outside of school.
- does not find school extra-curriculars very interesting.

**“The key question for educators is not whether to accelerate a gifted learner but rather how.”**

- Templeton National Report on Acceleration

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln Independent Study High School

This university-based independent study program works well with high ability students who wish to accelerate their learning path through high school, Advanced Placement® or college independent study courses.

With an entire high school curriculum and selected AP® and college courses available you can develop individualized accelerated learning plans for identified students. High school and college advising, testing for educational progress offered through the Iowa Test of Educational Development, and

certificated teachers are all part of this nationally accredited independent study program.

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