

## Student Issues related to needing a different pathway to achieve the education goals established within local communities

- **Gifted & Talented Issues**—Some students are highly intelligent in many areas and highly motivated to succeed and excel in schooling practices. Other such students do not excel. They need to be sufficiently stimulated with a challenging curriculum, different ways to learn and/or a different environment to maximize their learning.  
<http://www2.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/researchers/>
- **Average Student Issues**—What's wrong with being "average"? Strictly speaking, nothing. The danger is the "average" students may settle for lower expectations and poorer performance—doing enough to "get by" without ever reaching their potential.  
<http://mste.illinois.edu/courses/ci407su02/students/mdelisle/whitepaper2.htm>  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Underachiever.aspx>
- **Learning Issues**—Some students have problems learning at the traditional school **pace**, missing critical fundamentals. Students who are performing below average or have a learning disability want to succeed. But if allowed to fail, they will become defeated, stop trying and never catch up unless the pattern of failure is reversed. <http://www.nclld.org/types-learning-disabilities/what-is-ld/what-are-learning-disabilities>
- **Motivational Issues**—Some students are capable academically, but lack motivation. They fail to turn in homework assignments or engage in the classroom learning process. Their grades suffer, and their motivation continues to spiral downward. The interests of students remain primary guideposts to sparking energy for pursuing /improving learning.  
<http://www.education.com/reference/article/motivation-affects-learning-behavior/>
- **Study Skills Issues**—Some students have not developed the necessary study skills to function effectively in the classroom. They lack organizational and time management skills. They have not developed the study skills that enable them to competently and confidently handle their assignments. [http://isite.lps.org/sputnam/chem\\_notes/Study%20Skills/problems.htm](http://isite.lps.org/sputnam/chem_notes/Study%20Skills/problems.htm)
- **Emotional, Social or Mental Health Issues**—Some students face issues such as anxiety, stress, attachment disorder or low self-esteem. They may be diagnosed with conditions like ADD, ADHD, bipolar, Asperger's Syndrome or OCD. Students with these challenges are capable of success if the school is knowledgeable, understanding and willing to provide a program that addresses their needs in a positive way. <http://www.nasponline.org/advocacy/mhbrochure.aspx>
- **Behavioral Issues**—Some of the students with any of the above mentioned issues have developed or are at risk for developing behavioral problems. Many behavioral issues become non-existent or very manageable once students begin to experience success and no longer need to protect their self-images by acting out. <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/five-persistent-behavior-problems-and-how-handle-them-grades-6-C2%968>  
[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/Facts\\_for\\_Families\\_Page\\_s/The\\_Teen\\_Brain\\_Behavior\\_Problem\\_Solving\\_and\\_Decision\\_Making\\_95.aspx](http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Page_s/The_Teen_Brain_Behavior_Problem_Solving_and_Decision_Making_95.aspx)
- **Physical Development — Be sure that students mature at different rates and with much different physical characteristics.** The physical health of individuals in Iowa indicates that most individuals are not in good shape. Obesity is very prevalent. Poor physical health contributes to poor performance in school. Research in this area indicates that personalized plans for students can accommodate individual differences in physical health and can motivate students to improve their health. Traditional physical education programs and classes in health education have not resulted in better health for all students—reduced healthiness contributes to lower performance in the academic performance of students.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/stateprograms/fundedstates/pdf/iowa-state-profile.pdf>  
<http://www.livehealthyiowakids.org/asp/public/news.aspx?pid=10773&id=508>  
<http://www.pyfp.org>