CHECKLIST TO IDENTIFY GIFTED UNDER-ACHIEVERS

Observe and interact with the child over a period of at least two weeks to determine if he possesses the following characteristics. If the student exhibits ten or more of the listed traits, including all that are asterisked, individual intelligence testing by a psychologist (Stanford-Binet or Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children) is recommended to establish whether he is a gifted underachiever.

* Poor test performance
* Achieving at or below grade-level expectations in one or all of the basic skill areas: reading, language arts, mathematics
* Daily work frequently incomplete or poorly done
* Superior comprehension and retention of concepts when interested
* Vast gap between qualitative level of oral and written work
Exceptionally large repertoire of factual knowledge
Vitality of imagination; creative
Persistent dissatisfaction with work accomplished, even in art
* Seems to avoid trying new activities to prevent imperfect performance; evidences perfectionism, self-criticism
Shows initiative in pursuing self-selected projects at home
* Has a wide range of interests and possible special expertise in an area of investigation and research
* Evidences low self-esteem and tendencies to withdraw or be aggressive in the classroom
Does not function comfortably or constructively in a group of any size
Shows acute sensitivity and perceptions related to self, others and life in general
Tends to set unrealistic self-expectations: goals too high or too low
Dislikes practice work or drill for memorization and mastery
Easily distracted; unable to focus attention and concentrate efforts on tasks
Has an indifferent or negative attitude towards school
Resists teacher efforts to motivate or discipline behaviour in class
Has difficulty in peer relationships: maintains few friendships