Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University is a leader in the field of gifted education, helping schools implement programs and services to identify and nurture exceptional talent in young people.

We invite you to speak to a CTD School Services team member to discuss your needs.
A critical step in talent development is recognizing strengths, interests, and needs. CTD’s assessment program, Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), provides an accurate measure of advanced students’ knowledge and skills and allows educators to benchmark their performance with other high-achieving students. The tests used in NUMATS are administered above-grade-level, which means tests designed for students in higher grades are used with younger students (e.g., giving a fourth grade student a test designed for eighth grade students). NUMATS reveals the content students are ready to learn beyond grade level and demonstrates the level of acceleration required, allowing educators to differentiate instruction at the appropriate level and helping administrators make well-informed decisions about programs and services.

NUMATS Assessment Tools

Students in grades 3 through 6: PSAT™ 8/9 or I-Excel

Students in grades 6 through 9: SAT® or ACT®

Using NUMATS Results

NUMATS data and guidance materials help schools plan academic pathways for individual students and determine what programming and services are needed school or district wide.

Evaluate Programming and Develop Policy

Work with CTD to conduct a review of your programming and services for advanced learners, develop effective programming models, and create policies that reflect evidence-based practices, adhere to state guidelines, and meet state and national standards for best practice.

Customized consulting and coaching

Comprehensive program evaluation

Policy development and/or document review to address critical issues, including identification, program placement, and academic acceleration

Enhance Professional Learning

Advanced learners have specific educational needs, requiring that educators and administrators have specialized knowledge and skill sets. CTD offers professional learning to prepare educators and administrators to create programs and services that use best practices to identify and nurture academic talents, help students reach their full potential, and promote equity.

CTD’s service-learning program, the Civic Education Project, also offers specialized training for educators, youth development professionals, and other practitioners on various topics within service-learning, social justice education, student management, and youth development.

Boot Camp: An introduction to gifted education models and working with advanced learners

Customizable workshops: Online, face-to-face, or hybrid; led by experts on topics including identification best practices, data literacy, social-emotional needs, and differentiation

Educators’ Conferences: Held at Northwestern University each fall and spring

Opportunities to work in CTD summer, online, or weekend programs: Serves as a “practicum” to develop on-the-job skills and experience.

Connect with CTD

Consult with a CTD staff member to learn more about any of our offerings or discuss a proposal for services. School Services team members can be reached by email at ctd-school-services@northwestern.edu or by calling 847/467-0615.

For current professional learning offerings, visit www.ctd.northwestern.edu/professional-development.

Customizable Programming for Students and Parents

Expand your offerings in STEM, implement a service-learning and leadership curriculum, or add depth and breadth to your humanities courses. Work with CTD staff to design a course, a series of courses, or a program to meet the needs of your students.

Online, weekend, or hybrid enrichment and accelerated, credit-bearing courses

Service-learning and leadership experiences

CTD can also provide parents with the information and resources they need to support their child’s talent development.

Conferences and seminars for parents

Facilitated online communities for parents and students (CTD Backpack™)

3 Reasons Schools Use NUMATS

1. To gain a more accurate measure of students’ abilities and learning needs

2. To monitor student growth and consult with parents about short-term and long-term plans for talent development

3. To learn about supplemental programs for students and help counsel families

Learn more about NUMATS at ctd.northwestern.edu/numats.