Dynamic Online Learning Model
for Gifted & Talented Students

Dr. Kirsten L. Stein

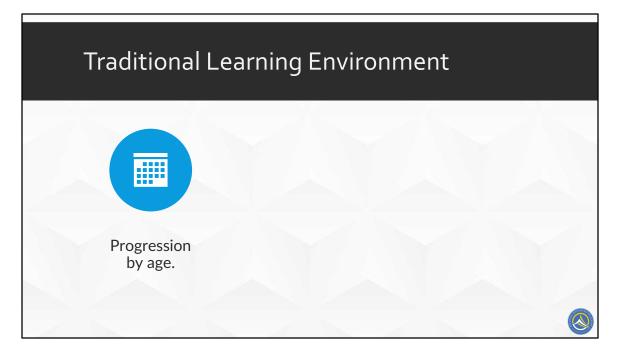Athena's Advanced Academy
https://AthenasAcademy.com/

While multiple educational systems exist worldwide, according to Schooling Around the World, within each country, stakeholders advocate the best practice to assist students in reaching their highest potential.

Often countries will use traditional models to educate their students.

Traditional Learning Environment
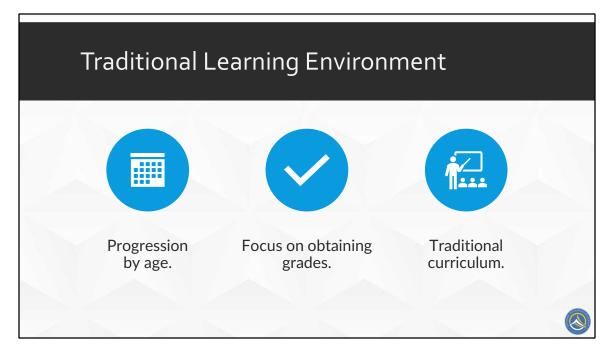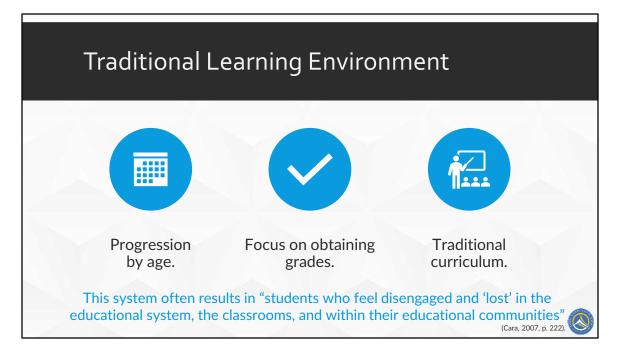
Progression by age.

Traditional models usually include the following:

Grade progression by age where students move from one grade to the next by their chronological age.

Traditional Learning Environment

Progression by age.

Focus on obtaining grades.

The learning environments focus on obtaining grades through methods such as test taking, assessments, and projects.

Traditional Learning Environment

| Progression by age. | Focus on obtaining grades. | Traditional curriculum. |

The focus is also on the traditional curriculum where teachers follow a certain protocol depending on the curriculum chosen by the school or district.

Traditional Learning Environment

Progression by age.

Focus on obtaining grades.

Traditional curriculum.

This system often results in "students who feel disengaged and 'lost' in the educational system, the classrooms, and within their educational communities" (Cara, 2007, p. 222).

This learning model does not always meet the needs of the gifted and talented students.

This model is especially hard when you have a younger student who is working at a higher level and needs higher-level material.

This model can be difficult for gifted students focused on grades because the focus is on obtaining the grade instead of discovering truth and growing in knowledge.

The traditional curriculum may be stifling for gifted students, they may already know the material or become easily disinterested—not as a result of their attitude, but as a result of the content or the way the curriculum is presented.
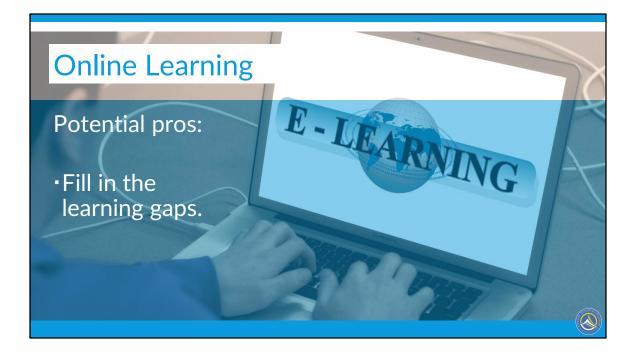
Stakeholders are left with questions.

Stakeholders= educational staff, parents, students

They are left to wonder how best to educate the gifted child.

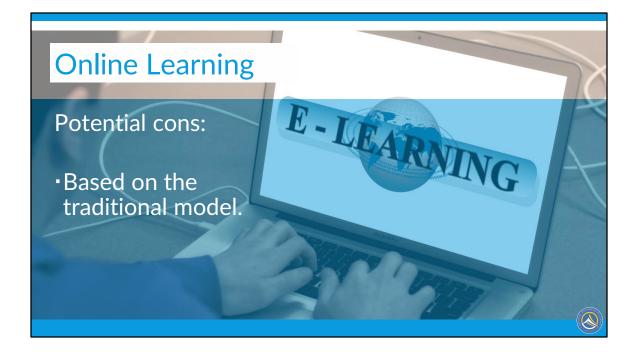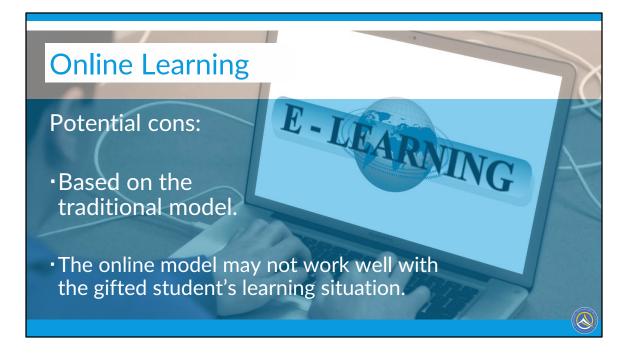Adults may seek out alternatives to the traditional model or current school model for the gifted child.
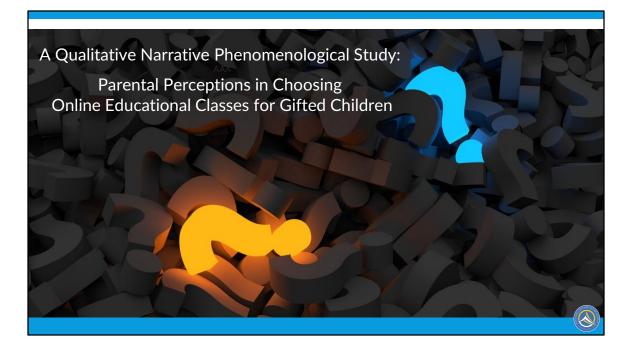
Online Learning

One alternative is online learning.

Online Learning

Potential pros:

- Fill in the learning gaps.

Online Learning

Potential pros:

- Fill in the learning gaps.

- Challenge gifted students.

Online Learning

Potential cons:

- Based on the traditional model.

Online Learning

Potential cons:

- Based on the traditional model.

- The online model may not work well with the gifted student's learning situation.

This still leaves parents and educators looking for answers.

Each gifted student and their situation is unique, so the question remains, How do we best to educate the gifted child?

A Qualitative Narrative Phenomenological Study:

Parental Perceptions in Choosing
Online Educational Classes for Gifted Children

Since parents are experts when it comes to their gifted child, Dr. Kirsten Stein created a study based on what parents were looking for in an online educational resource for their gifted student.

A Qualitative Narrative Phenomenological Study:

Parental Perceptions in Choosing
Online Educational Classes for Gifted Children

The purpose of this qualitative narrative phenomenological
study was to explore the experiences of parents of gifted
student children who live in the United States, who have gone through the
process of locating and selecting
an online class, and who have
worked with the online
educational environment
offering the class.

Dynamic Online Learning Model for Gifted & Talented Students

From the data Dr. Kirsten Stein obtained, she created a model that allows students' educational needs to be met.

Grouping Students by Ability

The first step was to group by ability instead of age – without age restrictions.

Grouping Students by Ability

· Younger students learning at a high level.

Younger students learning higher ability. Students also don't share their ages to prevent ageism.

Watch the content, because you don't want content that is inappropriate for a young student.
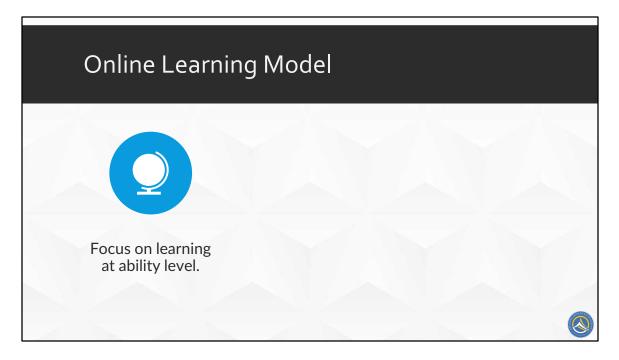
Focus on Learning

The next thing was to focus on learning through a variety of modalities -- projects, activities, etc.

Focus on Learning

- Instead of grades, focused on discovering and gaining knowledge.

Of course, as educators, one of our main goals is to teach content to students. But, as I stated before so many of our traditional models rely on the accumulation of grades as opposed to the love of learning.

Online Learning Model

Focus on learning
at ability level.

Dr. Kirsten Stein joined the two to focus on learning at students' ability levels.

That way, they are learning at their level and not getting bored (or too overwhelmed)

Online Learning Model

Focus on learning at ability level.

Choices.

Provide choices

You are constantly choosing what you want. You gravitate to what you enjoy and what resonates with you.

More engaged = more learning.

Choices –

- Type
- Audio
- Video

Students are able to dive deeply into the subject material.

Online Learning Model

Focus on learning at ability level.

Choices.

Flexibility.

Flexibility In courses

This includes flexibility with grading. Grade on a completion scale which can be translated to a grade if desired since it is a 5-point scale.

With a flexible platform, you will be able to be easily modify and respond to altered circumstances or conditions.
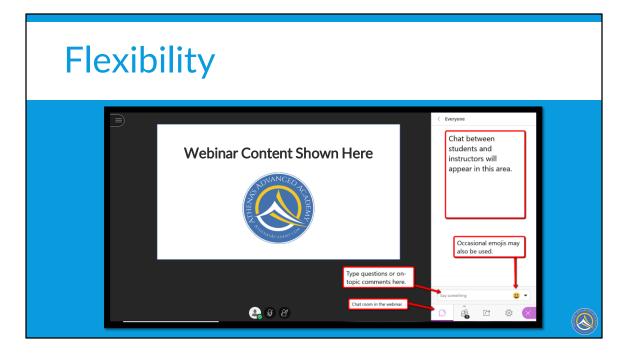
Flexibility

You can go with the flow and still get the desired results.

Flexibility

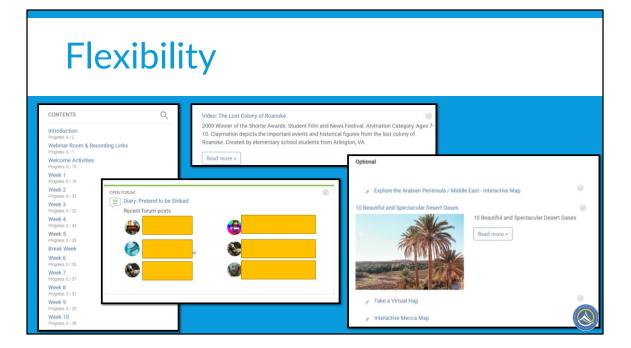- **Synchronous ~**
  - Attend the live weekly webinars.
  - Connecting and collaborating with their classmates and instructor via the virtual classroom interface.

- **Asynchronous ~**
  - Watch the recordings of the weekly webinars.
  - Connecting and collaborating with their classmates and instructor via the virtual classroom interface.

Flexibility with time.

Flexibility

Live and recorded webinars.

Flexibility

Asynchronous virtual classroom.

Flexibility

- Required Section

- **Highly Suggested** and **Optional Sections**

Flexibility with requirements.

Flexibility

Teach using many different online tools.

Flexibility

Teach curriculum in a non-traditional way.

In addition, it's not just important to focus on learning, gifted students need to connect with other like-minded individuals

Flexibility

Teach curriculum in a non-traditional way—

For example, using a book that catches your attention.

Connections

In addition, it's not just important to focus on learning, gifted students need to connect with other like-minded individuals.

Connections

- Social Forums
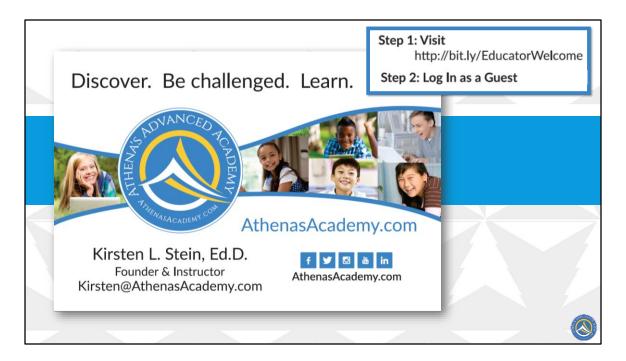- Open Chat
- Group Projects
- Minecraft
- Mock Court
- Art Show/Recital
- Junior Presenters
- Junior Instructors
- Junior Reporters

Examples.

To see the model in action go to…

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