



Features

- *A teacher training program for grades K-6 which sensitizes and empowers teachers to identify and nurture the varied thought process strengths of students.*

Results



- *Improved student performance in the area of thinking skills, self-confidence, and academic achievement.*
- *90% of administrators believe that the use of the Talents model and instructional program positively impact student understanding of academic content.*
- *90% of Talents teachers surveyed feel that the program has improved their teaching.*

The Program

Talents Unlimited is a teaching/learning program which improves students' critical and creative thinking skills within the context of classroom curriculum. Based on Dr. Calvin Taylor's Multiple Talent Approach, this program increases student metacognitive capacity in specific work-related thought processes: Productive Thinking, Communication, Forecasting, Planning, and Decision Making. The Talents Unlimited model provides a practical structure for teachers to facilitate students' application of these high-level processes to academic content. Consistent, deliberate practice in these talent areas leads students to more sophisticated and independent understanding of academic content as well as the thought processes.

Teachers introduce students to the Talents processes through the activities they design based on their academic objectives. Because these Talents activities are woven into academic instruction to enhance student motivation and understanding of content, the Talents model is not an "add on" program. Through consistent, precise use of Talents metacognitive languages, teachers deliberately make students aware of the intended thought process they will use to manipulate the academic information. In so doing, the teacher simultaneously offers direct instruction to students in the thought process as well as the content. These Talents activities motivate even the most reluctant learners to greater cognitive growth. In addition, Talents Unlimited supports and meshes with other effective instructional methodologies. Talents has over twenty years of successful dissemination in thousands of schools throughout the US and other countries.

Professional Development

With the guidance of a certified trainer, educators participate in a minimum two-day/twelve-hour workshop with subsequent follow-up assistance to internalize the components of the Talents thinking skills model. In Talents training sessions, teachers commonly engage in Talents activities, analyze Talents lesson plans and student responses, and develop curriculum-based Talents activities which build on student strengths. Initial training workshops are designed to accommodate a maximum of thirty teachers. Follow-up is essential to overall program success and includes published materials, on-site technical assistance services, and biannual conferences. Certified trainers are available in New York State as well as other areas of the U.S. and Canada.

Costs & Funding Options

Expenses for the two-day initial training include a materials fee for each participant (currently \$55 + 10% shipping); travel expenses, meals, and lodging for the certified trainer; and a consultant's fee (currently \$500/day for national office staff). Although not mandated, it is suggested that each school site purchase a Talents Activity Packet (TAP) of model Talents lesson plans for teacher reference (currently \$50 +10% shipping). Single sets of awareness materials are available from the national office at no charge. Possible funding sources include ESEA Title I, Title II, Title IV (Safe and Drug Free Schools), Title VI (Innovative Programs), Title VII (ESL), Title IX (Indian Education), IDEA, Javits Grants, At-Risk Funds, Goals 2000, content-specific enhancement initiatives, arts councils, magnet school funds, and compensatory funds among others.

Learning Standards

The program provides a mechanism for teachers to improve their skills in helping all students meet the standards.

Contact

Patricia Hughes
Project Director
Talents Unlimited
304 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36603-1103
251-690-8060
Fax: 251-433-8364
E-mail: talentsu@aol.com
Website: www.talentsunlimited.org