

Supporting Twice-Exceptional (2e) Learners in FCPS

Twice-Exceptional (2e) learners are students who are both gifted and have learning challenges or disabilities.



What do 2e students need?

2e students can thrive when:

- Individualized and flexible instruction and accommodations are responsive to students' strengths, disabilities, and challenges.
- Supports, accommodations, and/or services ensure access to instruction and demonstrate understanding.
- Social-emotional learning and accompanying strategies build their confidence, skills, resilience, and a sense of belonging.
- Collaborative teams (including the student, teachers, all support staff, and families) design and adjust plans that affirm their identities and experiences.
- Clear expectations and predictability in all aspects of school are established including, but not limited to, assignments, scheduling, and social interactions.

How do families and FCPS staff partner?

Strong partnerships and active communication between schools and families are critical to supporting 2e students.

Together, we:

- Collaborate in the identification, evaluation, and instructional planning processes to understand student strengths, needs, and goals.
- Communicate regularly about progress, supports, strategies, and wellness.

- Engage in decision-making processes about course selection, accommodations, and specialized instruction and/or services (when applicable).
- Assume collective responsibility to co-create environments where students can thrive.

What are some ways adults can support 2e students?

Adult engagement and empathy are critical components of student success. Adults are encouraged to:

- Prioritize and acknowledge individualized efforts over public recognition, peer comparisons, or grades.
- Support each child's strengths and empower them to navigate struggles using a variety of strategies and techniques.
- Provide opportunities for each child to consider and express ways in which they learn best.
- Teach and encourage self-advocacy skills that can be applied across environments.
- Partner with families, school staff, and community resources providers to address signs of stress, withdrawal, or burnout at home or at school.
- Have fun with students! Support exploration and deeper learning related to the student's areas of interest.
- Listen to and validate student concerns and collaborate with the student in problem solving and decision making.



FCPS 2e Web page

<https://www.fcps.edu/node/33071>



FCPS Special Education Handbook

<https://www.fcps.edu/node/51321>

Resources Included:

- VDOE Gifted Education & Special Education Websites (Includes 2e Toolkit)
- National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
- Council for Exceptional Children