

# Education NEWS & NOTES

## Bored In School?

(NAPS)—If your child is bored in school, it could be because she's so smart.

Most people believe the smartest kids in schools are the ones who earn the top grades, raise their hands often and are praised by their teachers. Experts tell us this is not the case.

- Research indicates that up to 20 percent of high school dropouts test in the gifted range.
- Nearly half of gifted students are underachieving.
- Highly intelligent children often hide their intellectual abilities in order to make friends. Girls especially will “dumb down” to fit in with their peers.
- Gifted students are frequently misdiagnosed as hyperactive or as having Attention Deficit Disorder because boredom often leads to them being inattentive in class.

In their new book, *Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our Brightest Young Minds* (Simon & Schuster, \$24), Jan and Bob Davidson expose what has been called “the biggest dirty little secret” in American education: For many of our nation's brightest students school is, at best, a waste of time. At worst, it's a purgatory of boredom. These students, who represent our nation's greatest potential, face depression, frustration and often give up on school.

Solutions such as grade- or subject-acceleration, homeschooling and early college can foster dramatic changes at minimal

# Genius DENIED

HOW TO STOP WASTING

OUR BRIGHTEST

YOUNG MINDS

WHAT YOU AND YOUR

SCHOOL CAN DO FOR

YOUR GIFTED CHILD

JAN & BOB DAVIDSON  
WITH LAURA VANDERKAM



**Highly intelligent children may “dumb down” in order to make friends, or end up having behavioral problems in school due to boredom.**

costs, but are often passed over because of misinformation and a preoccupation with test scores.

*Genius Denied* has received critical acclaim as “a manifesto for change” in education. But the Davidsons do more than advocate for change. They offer students, parents, professionals and policy-makers the tools they need to make change happen. Students' stories, a collection of state policy information and other resources on gifted education are available online at [www.GeniusDenied.com](http://www.GeniusDenied.com).