

A Correlation Study of School Principals Perceptions of Self-efficacy and the Availability & Quality of Gifted Programming in their Schools  
By Louis P. Lloyd-Zannini (2002)

The purpose of this study was to determine the nature and direction of the correlation between the perceived self-efficacy of school principals and the availability and quality of the programming for gifted students in their schools.

The study asked 325 public and private elementary school principals in the Hampton Roads area of southeastern Virginia to respond to two surveys, one previously normed concerning self-efficacy, and one developed by the researcher based on gifted program criteria established by the National Association for Gifted Children, to measure program availability and quality.

Though no statistically significant relationship between self-efficacy and program availability and/or quality was found overall, such a relationship was found specifically for principals of schools whose focus was general education, and for those whose served in private, non-faith/church-affiliate schools . It was found that schools serving 300 or more students were more likely to provide gifted programming than schools serving fewer students, and that their gifted programs were more likely to be of higher quality than that of smaller schools. Additionally, it was determined that public schools were more likely to provide gifted programming than private schools, and that, in the cases of private schools, principal self-efficacy was positively related to the schools gifted program quality.

Further study is needed to determine whether the findings of this study are also true for schools serving middle and high school grades, and to determine whether findings may be generalizable to other geographical areas.