

HOPE Scale Directions

The *HOPE Scale* is designed to measure two very broad categories: Social and Academic components of giftedness and talent. It is meant to serve as a tool with which to focus a classroom teacher's nomination and perceptions of his/her students onto behaviors that are often observable by a classroom teacher. When combined with other measures of aptitude and achievement, the HOPE Scale can help to locate gifted and talented students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

As a rater, one of the most important things is that you rate each of your students as *compared to other children similar in age, background, experience, culture, and/or environment*. This is very important as students may demonstrate certain behaviors differently based on their own prior experiences.

As you respond to each item, ask yourself "To what degree does this student exhibit the behavior as compared to other children of similar age, background, experience, culture, and/or environment?" Each student is rated as anywhere from "always" (6) demonstrating that particular behavior to "never" (1) demonstrating that behavior. For example, when rating your students, try to compare those from low-income families to other children from low-income families, children from African-American families to other children from African-American families, etc.

The following two scales are measured by their respective items:

Academic Scale	Social Scale
1. Performs or <i>shows potential</i> for performing at remarkably high levels	2. Is sensitive to larger or deeper issues of human concern
6. Is eager to explore new concepts	3. Is self-aware
7. Exhibits intellectual intensity	4. Shows compassion for others
9. Uses alternative processes	5. Is a leader within his/her group of peers
10. Thinks "outside the box"	8. Effectively interacts with adults or older students
11. Has intense interests	

Once you have rated all of your students on each of the items, add up total scores for each subscale (Academic and Social) *separately*. Scores on the two scales should never be added together as some students may demonstrate strong academic or social skills, but not necessarily both. It is also important to note in which areas the student has demonstrated these behaviors (science, math, art, etc.) as well as any other important behaviors or student characteristics.

Once a *HOPE Scale* has been completed on each student by his/her teacher, all of the information (including demographic variables) should be entered into a single database in order to allow for group-specific comparisons when making placement decisions.