TWICE-EXCEPTIONAL (2e)

At a Glance

A strength-based, talent-focused approach for twice-exceptional learners, students who are both high-potential and have a disability. Identify the strength, develop the talent, support the need. Grounded in the research of Reis, Renzulli, and Baum. Powered by Renzulli Learning.

What Twice-Exceptional Means

A twice-exceptional (2e) student simultaneously has the characteristics of a gifted or high-potential learner and the characteristics of a student with a disability, such as dyslexia, ADHD, or autism. To be identified as 2e, a student must have both high aptitude and a disability. Because their strengths and challenges can mask one another, both the giftedness and the disability are often missed, and the student's talent goes undeveloped. A 2e student who reads below grade level may also be a gifted storyteller; a student who cannot sit still may be an inventive problem-solver.

Strengths First, Not Deficits First

Schools most often serve 2e students through a deficit-based lens: remediation and behavior plans focused on weaknesses. As Reis and Renzulli have written, this does not address how these students learn or the reality that they need to be challenged. A strength-based, talent-focused approach begins with what the student can do. Research shows that as educators shift attention toward a 2e student's strengths and provide enrichment, the student becomes more engaged and more successful, while still receiving support for their needs.

How Renzulli Learning Helps

Step	What Happens
See the strength	The Renzulli Profiler surfaces interests, learning styles, and expression styles in 20+ languages, revealing talents a deficit-focused evaluation misses.
Engage through interest	40,000+ curated enrichment activities connect the student to what they love, so learning starts from strength, not remediation.
Develop talent	Project-Based Learning and the Enrichment Triad move students to Type III creative productivity, where 2e students often excel and their gifts become visible.
Build needed skills	Strengths become the vehicle for developing academic skills, self-regulation, executive function, and emotional regulation, the very areas 2e students need supported.
Document the whole student	The Total Talent Portfolio records talents, growth, and best work, a strengths-based picture a deficit-focused file never provides.

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Common Strength Areas for 2e Learners

Reis and colleagues found that academically successful 2e students often excel in specific areas, in and out of school. The platform is built to surface and develop exactly these strengths:

Area	Where 2e Students Shine
Performing & Fine Arts	Music, dance, drama, and set design; color, texture, photography, fashion, and graphic design.
Writing & E-Journalism	Recording events, online writing, non-fiction, prose, and poetry. A student who struggles to decode text may be a powerful storyteller.
Mathematics & Sciences	Numbers, patterns, and logic; biology, chemistry, environmental science. Strong reasoning a reading or writing deficit can hide.
Beyond the Classroom	Athletics, computer science, leadership, chess, and building complex designs, talent a school-only view would miss.

The Research Behind the Approach

Renzulli Learning's approach to 2e learners is the applied form of a sustained research record: Reis & Renzulli (2020), *Parenting for strengths*, Gifted Education International; Baum, Schader & Hebert (2014), a strengths-based, talent-focused approach for 2e learners, Gifted Child Quarterly; Baum and colleagues (2014) on enrichment clusters with 2e students; and research on twice-exceptional students with autism (2e-ASD). See renzullilearning.com/en/research.

Getting Started

1. Activate the Profiler → **2.** Surface the student's strengths and interests → **3.** Match interest-based enrichment and projects → **4.** Develop talent through Type III creative work → **5.** Document growth in the Total Talent Portfolio.

Ready to develop every twice-exceptional learner's talent?

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