Syntheses of Research on Classroom Environment
Nikole S. Kamp, Renee K. Brown, Moira M. Bonadonna, Bridget J. Bielski
Advised by Dr. Kathryn A. Kinnucan-Welsch, EdD. & Mrs. Susan M. Ferguson M.S.

Pros and Cons: Separating Gifted Children

- **Consequences** include:
  - a lack of diversity/democracy in the classroom
  - changes in attitude – elitist sense
- **Benefits** include:
  - Huge in the educational sense, through a higher expectation and achievement range
  - Higher self esteem – higher success rate
- Because of these conflicting consequences and benefits, gifted students should remain as they are in the schools

Healthy Student-Teacher Relationship

- Healthy student teacher relationships: active engagement, active listening, and high expectations for students
- Negative impacts from bad relationships
  - Bad grades
  - Behavioral issues
  - Dejected from school career
  - No room for creativity
- Positive impacts on student learning from good relationships
  - International students feel more safe
  - Good grades
  - Better behavior/personality

Contributions to Misdiagnosis of Special Education Children

- Doctor’s lack of education contributes because few doctors know the difference between gifted and special needs
- Both special education and gifted students show similar characteristics
- The overmedication of children
- Regular teachers contribute because of the lack of education for identifying a student with possible special needs.

Standardized Tests Effects on Classroom Environment

- Negative effects on instruction
  - “Teaching to the test”
  - Curriculum is narrowed and lacks rigor
- Activities are chosen based on test preparation instead of most beneficial
- Negative effects on other school activities
  - Reduction on recess
  - Elimination of art and music classes
- Effects on low-income and minority
  - Most failing schools are at risk of losing funding
  - Governments are shutting down “failing schools”
  - “Failing schools are becoming privatized and children are forced to switch schools

Consequences include:
- a lack of diversity/democracy in the classroom
- changes in attitude – elitist sense

Benefits include:
- Huge in the educational sense, through a higher expectation and achievement range
- Higher self esteem – higher success rate

Because of these conflicting consequences and benefits, gifted students should remain as they are in the schools

Healthy student-teacher relationships: active engagement, active listening, and high expectations for students

Negative impacts from bad relationships
- Bad grades
- Behavioral issues
- Dejected from school career
- No room for creativity

Positive impacts on student learning from good relationships
- International students feel more safe
- Good grades
- Better behavior/personality