

## Purchased Services

**What it is:** Purchased services are services that are provided by personnel who are not on the school district payroll. For students with gifts and talents, this is commonly online or correspondence courses.

### Benefits:

- Provide learning opportunities not otherwise available to students
- Meets individual needs of students
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with others with similar abilities or interests

### Examples:

- Online courses, such as those offered through the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY), Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (CTD), Stanford's Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY), and Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS)
- Wisconsin Virtual School courses
- Correspondence courses

### Situations where the strategy is useful:

- When there is only one student or a handful of students who will benefit from the learning opportunity
- When there is no school district staff member available to provide the learning opportunity
- When it's beneficial to expand opportunities for students beyond the school building

### Pointers:

- Carefully match the student with the learning opportunity to ensure success. For example, some online courses require a great deal of independence and self-motivation. Not all students possess these characteristics.
- Students are generally more successful in online environments when they have a Local Education Guide (LEG) to support them. A LEG can be the gifted coordinator, a school counselor, a teacher, or a community volunteer. The essential role of the LEG is to monitor the student's progress on a regular basis - to support the student's success by identifying problem areas in the content, answering questions, and providing technical assistance.

## References/Resources

Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. Website: <http://www.aleks.com>.

Center for Talent Development (Northwestern University). Website: <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu>.

Education Program for Gifted Youth. Website: <http://epgy.stanford.edu>.

William and Mary Curriculum Units. Website: <http://education.wm.edu/centers/cfge/curriculum/materials/index.php>.

Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth. Website: <http://wcaty.org>.

Wisconsin Virtual School (n.d.). *Local education guides*. Retrieved from <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/leg.asp>.

Wisconsin Virtual School. Website: <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org>.