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Book Review: *Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children: A Parent's Complete Guide* by Barbara Jackson Gilman, M.S. (formerly titled: *Empowering Gifted Minds: Educational Advocacy That Works*), Arizona: Great Potential Press, 2003 and 2008. ISBN#10: 0-910707-88-X and ISBN 13: 978-0-910707-88-6.

The world of gifted education is an increasingly complex one. The No Child Left Behind Act, the movement toward inclusion, the middle school movement, other anti-gifted forces – all of these have had an impact on gifted students and gifted education.

In her book, *Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children: A Parent's Complete Guide*, Barbara Jackson Gilman, gives us hope and direction. She joins forces with Quinn O'Leary (a now-grown gifted child) to share scenarios, possible action plans, and glimpses into the mind of a gifted child. Ms. Gilman carefully crafts a complete guide for gifted education as it exists in 2008. She tackles all of the issues that confront schools, educators, parents and gifted children, and deals with them pragmatically, analytically, and creatively. Chapters are dedicated to identification processes, to programming delivery models, to opening charter schools for the gifted, and to the myriad of issues that we deal with in gifted education on a daily basis. In her afterword, Ms. Gilman issues a call to arms, and shares lists of resources that can be used to further our missions. Quoting the work of Karen Rogers and Linda Silverman often, Ms. Gilman offers "best practice" solutions that work in today's world of gifted education.

This book -- a rare combination of intimate frustrations and joys (the commentary from Quinn O'Leary), and the step-by-step action guide with many specific examples, is a much-needed resource for parents and for educators. As advocates for gifted students, we can no longer hope and wait. We must act.

Jacquelyn Drummer, President  
WI Association for Talented and Gifted

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*Midwest Book Review:*

"One could have all the intelligence in the world but it means nothing if it's not nurtured. *Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children* is aimed at parents of gifted children who want to cut through the piles of bureaucratic red tape and give their child the education they need to make the most of their gifted skill in the field of academics. It covers everything from other parents' experiences with gifted children to the definition of the subject, testing, classes, what to do about underachievement, and much more. (This book) is a solid and recommended guide for parents, a must for those who suspect their child is more than just the average student."

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REVIEW OF *Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children: A Parent's Complete Guide* by  
Barbara Jackson Gilman, M.S.

By Paula J. Hillmann, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Educational Psychology  
President and Executive director, *Advanced Learning Resources*,  
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Families I work with are eagerly seeking the best information on giftedness and on programs that address the high abilities and advanced learning needs in their child. This search often parallels their need for developing advocacy skills in working with their child's school and teachers. Barbara Jackson Gilman's book *Academic Advocacy for Gifted Children* provides a means for all three! Her subtitle: *A Parent's Complete Guide* is very accurate, and the graphics on the cover of the book help communicate the focus of the work very clearly, i.e., ...here are some great, research-based ideas for parents who are navigating through the maze of giftedness, schooling, and parent engagement in a talented child's pathway to learning.

As a former teacher, school principal, and K-12 gifted education services coordinator – and now in private practice as an educational psychologist and gifted & talented consultant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – I am thrilled to have this book as part of the growing collection to our field of literature on parenting for high potential! I am already using it with families I work with and recommending it to parents as a “must-have” in their quest for ideas and information on becoming an “engaged” parent advocate. In the future I hope to use it as a foundation for one of my parent book study groups, too.

Congratulations to Barbara Jackson Gilman on her work and to GPP for their publication of this fine resource!

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