

free spirit

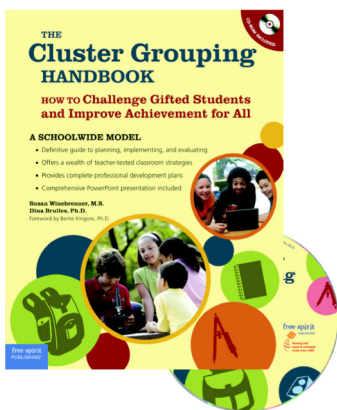
PUBLISHING®



Meeting kids' social & emotional needs since 1983

## Contact

Jenni Bowring  
612.746.6848  
bowring@freespirit.com



## THE CLUSTER GROUPING HANDBOOK

BOOK WITH CD-ROM

by Susan Winebrenner, M.S.,  
and Dina Brulles, Ph.D.

- Effective with underserved populations such as English language learners, twice-exceptional students, culturally diverse learners, gifted primary and middle school students
- Useful in schools with or without pull-out programs for gifted students
- Written by gifted-education experts

## Teachers can challenge gifted students while improving achievement for all

For Immediate Release!

“Susan Winebrenner and Dina Brulles have given us a thorough explication of an educational strategy that actually has substantial evidence supporting its use. Cluster grouping . . . is a strategy that works for every learner, and this is a handbook that gives us an amazingly detailed step-by-step process to follow to make it a success from the very start.”—Sanford J. Cohn, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education, Arizona State University, Coauthor (with Barbara A. Kerr, Ph.D.) of *Smart Boys: Talent, Manhood, and the Search for Meaning*

Minneapolis, MN—In today’s standards-driven classroom, the focus of educators is often on the learning needs of students who score below grade-level standards. But while teachers understandably focus on reaching and teaching struggling students, what attention is given to learners who have exceptionally high ability, readily master the content, and are able to pass tests with exemplary scores? Teachers need to motivate and challenge these gifted learners while ensuring that students at *all* levels in their classroom reach their potential.

The solution is the Schoolwide Cluster Grouping Model (SCGM). **The Cluster Grouping Handbook: A Schoolwide Model** book with CD-ROM (Free Spirit Publishing, \$39.95) will help all teachers and administrators (K–8) establish and implement this effective form of schoolwide cluster grouping. It provides a wealth of teacher-tested classroom strategies for differentiating the curriculum along with detailed information on identifying students for clusters, gaining support from parents, and providing ongoing professional development for educators. It is a welcomed roadmap for implementing, sustaining, and evaluating the effectiveness of the SCGM in any school.

With the SCGM, gifted students are clustered into classrooms based on their learning capabilities, while all other students are placed according to their achievement performance levels. Classroom compositions are carefully structured with two main goals: 1) to ensure a balance of abilities throughout the grade level without returning to the practice of tracking, and 2) to reduce the learning range found in every classroom. The practice of cluster grouping students is gaining popularity with schools across the country, and the SCGM can provide full-time academic services to gifted students without major budget implications while potentially raising achievement for all students in the school.

**The Cluster Grouping Handbook** includes

- A definitive guide to implementing and evaluating schoolwide cluster grouping
- A wealth of teacher-tested classroom strategies
- Answers to common questions teachers, parents, or other school stakeholders may ask
- Complete professional development plans
- Information for administrators on how to tap into a Cluster Grouping Network
- Over 50 reproducible handouts

—more—

- A CD-ROM that includes all the reproducibles plus a PowerPoint presentation to explain the concepts and value of cluster grouping

**THE CLUSTER GROUPING HANDBOOK** is an essential resource for administrators, gifted-education program directors, and classroom teachers who want to help all students stay motivated and achieve.

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**The Cluster Grouping Handbook  
A Schoolwide Model**  
Book with CD-ROM  
**How to Challenge Gifted Students and Improve Achievement for All**  
by Susan Winebrenner, M.S., and Dina Brulles, Ph.D.

ISBN 978-1-57542-279-4 = \$39.95 = Softcover = 224 pp. = 8½" x 11"  
= for teachers and administrators, grades K–8



**About the Authors**

**Susan Winebrenner, M.S.**, is the best-selling author of *Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom* and *Teaching Kids with Learning Difficulties in the Regular Classroom*. A former classroom teacher, she has a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is a full-time consultant in staff development, helping educators translate educational research into classroom practice. Susan lives in San Marcos, California.



**Dina Brulles, Ph.D.**, is the gifted-education director for Arizona's Paradise Valley Unified School District. Recognized for her expertise in creating and supervising schoolwide cluster grouping, she also assists school districts throughout the United States in developing programs that serve culturally and linguistically diverse gifted students. Dina lives in Peoria, Arizona.



**About Free Spirit Publishing ([www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com))**  
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Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Free Spirit is the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social and emotional health. Free Spirit's mission is to help children and teens think for themselves, succeed in life, and make a difference in the world.