

Schoolwide Enrichment Model

The purpose of this brochure is to acquaint administrators, teachers and parents with Davis School District's *Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM)*. This program for advanced learners exists throughout the Davis School District at all elementary schools. Davis District's mission statement is "*Learning First.*" The mission of the elementary Schoolwide Enrichment Model program enhances the district's mission by being committed to helping advanced students achieve their highest potential in order to become life-long learners who will use their gifts and knowledge to benefit society.



"SEM has helped me prepare for the future."

6th Grader

"SEM is fun because it pushes your brain to learn more."

4th Grader

"SEM is my favorite thing during the week."

6th Grader

"I would recommend SEM for high achieving students."

5th Grader

"I enjoy learning new and different things."

3rd Grader

"SEM is a fun learning experience. I would want to be in SEM again and I love being challenged because school is easy."

5th Grader

"SEM is a good place to learn and have fun."

4th Grader

"SEM is my favorite class."

2nd Grader

"I really like being able to have a challenge."

6th Grader

"I think SEM is one of the best things about school."

6th Grader

"SEM was my time to get away from all the easy stuff and get challenged."

3rd Grader

"I love being in an atmosphere with kids at my level."

6th Grader

"SEM is a fun enrichment program that kids will enjoy for generations to come."

6th Grader



SEM Schoolwide Enrichment Model

*Helping to challenge
advanced learners
at their
neighborhood
elementary school*

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Why have a pull-out program for advanced learners at the elementary level?



Most of our district's advanced learners spend their time in traditional classrooms. Because of their academic abilities, these students may or may not be challenged. The SEM program is needed because:

- Few teachers have had adequate training to effectively differentiate for high ability students
- Research has shown these students need to spend time with their intellectual peers

The SEM Program is designed for students who are consistently:

- Above average in a specific area of talent or academic ability
- Motivated to do more challenging work
- Uniformly high in their talent or ability area on classroom assignments and/or tests.

SEM provides an enriched curriculum designed to challenge these high ability learners.

Who are Davis District's high ability students?

According to Davis District Policy, they are *children and youth whose high performance or potential for accomplishment requires a differentiated and challenging education program to meet their needs in any one or more of the following areas:*

- Creative, critical or productive thinking
- Extraordinary ability in one or more academic disciplines
- Visual and performing arts
- Leadership
- Overall academic ability

What types of learning experiences does SEM provide?

SEM is designed to provide a variety of enrichment and extension activities in which students participate on a part-time basis, usually between 30-60 minutes a week. SEM students may also have the opportunity to participate in district sponsored competitions such as History Fair, Science Fair, Math and Science Olympiad, Elementary Debate, Storytelling Festival or others.

Who teaches SEM?

The SEM Program is directed at the school level by teacher-assistants. These assistants participate in an initial in-depth district training and then meet monthly for training directed by the SEM Supervisor. Teacher-assistants work with the classroom teacher and School Enrichment Team to offer challenging learning opportunities for these students.

What curriculum is taught in SEM?

The teacher-assistant works in conjunction with the traditional classroom teacher to enrich the students' learning by adding depth, rigor and complexity to the Davis Essential Skills and Knowledge (DESK) standards. Activities are designed based on student needs and interests and may be tied to any curricular area. The SEM program offers the following types of experiences:

- Type I - General enrichment for all students
- Type II - Specific cluster classes designed for groups of identified high ability students
- Type III - Independent research-based student projects facilitated by the teacher-assistant.

How are students identified for SEM?

Student test scores as well as classroom performance are examined and provide the data used for identification. Teachers in the traditional classroom work with the SEM teacher-assistant to offer input in the identification of students to be served.

