

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) is a research-based framework developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli and Dr. Sally Reis at the University of Connecticut. Across more than four decades and 4,000+ schools worldwide, it develops the strengths and talents of all students. Renzulli Learning is the online application of the SEM.

4,000+

schools
using the SEM

50+

years of
UConn research

65th → 86th

creativity percentile
gain (Italy SEM study)

40,000+

enrichment
activities

Traditional Classroom vs. the SEM Classroom

Area	Traditional Classroom	The SEM Classroom
Focus	Standardized outcomes; the same content and pace for every student.	The strengths and talents of every student, with personalized pathways.
Instruction	Teacher-centered, textbook-driven, built on memorization.	Interest-driven and inquiry-based, building higher-order thinking.
Student role	Passive; the teacher is the sole evaluator.	Active producer: self-reflection, projects, and real audiences.
Talent	Enrichment reserved for an identified few.	Enrichment infused into every classroom, schoolwide.

The Three Core Services of the SEM

The SEM is delivered through three connected services. Renzulli Learning operationalizes each one in a single K-12 platform:

SEM Service	What It Means	How Renzulli Learning Delivers It
Assess strengths	Identify interests, learning styles, and expression styles to build a Total Talent Portfolio.	Renzulli Profiler (available in 20+ languages)
Differentiate	The Profiler's strength-based roadmap of interests, learning styles, and expression styles drives differentiated enrichment activities and projects; compacting replaces mastered content.	Renzulli Profiler + Enrichment Activities + Projects
Provide enrichment	Type I, II, and III experiences spark curiosity and build advanced skills.	40,000+ activities, Project-Based Learning, Wizard Project Maker

How Renzulli Learning Delivers Every SEM Component

Whether you run the SEM as a gifted program, a magnet or theme school, or schoolwide enrichment for all, Renzulli Learning connects every component to the right tool:

SEM Component	How Renzulli Learning Delivers It	Tool
Assess strengths	Interests, learning styles, and expression styles build a Total Talent Portfolio.	Renzulli Profiler
Differentiate instruction	The Profiler's strength-based roadmap of interests, learning styles, and expression styles drives differentiated enrichment activities and projects.	Renzulli Profiler + Enrichment Activities + PBL
Type I enrichment	Exploratory experiences across new fields and interests.	40,000+ Enrichment Activities
Type II enrichment	Build creativity and higher-order thinking skills.	Creativity Games + Cebeci Test of Creativity
Type III enrichment	Self-directed, in-depth investigative projects for real audiences.	PBL + Wizard Project Maker
Measure durable skills	Document growth over time across all five assessments.	Profiler, CTC, Executive Function, Leadership, Critical Thinking
Plan for college & career	Set goals, explore careers, and build a durable-skills portfolio.	Personal Success Plan

The Enrichment Triad: Exploration → Skills → Creative Productivity

Type I (explore via 40,000+ activities and the Renzulli Profiler) → **Type II** (develop thinking, creativity, and research skills) → **Type III** (create original products via PBL and the Project Showcase). Students can turn any enrichment activity into a full project. No other platform connects exploration, skill development, and creative productivity in one system.

Research Evidence

Study	Finding
Italy SEM Study (3 years)	Students in the Renzulli Learning / SEM group increased overall creativity from the 65th to the 86th percentile .
Baum, Renzulli & Hébert	82% of underachieving students were no longer underachieving after completing Type III projects.
Field (2009) RCT	383 students: reading comprehension p<.001 , fluency p=.016, social studies p=.013.
Olenchak & Renzulli (1989)	Demonstrated SEM effectiveness on elementary school change across diverse socioeconomic settings.
Lucas / USC (RCT)	Project-based learning students outperformed peers by 8 to 10 percentage points on AP exams.
Lucas / Stanford	English language learners scored up to 28 points higher on language proficiency.

Research summary: Reis & Renzulli, "Research on the Schoolwide Enrichment Model: Four decades of insights, innovation, and evolution" (2021).

Ready to bring the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to your school?

Start a free 30-day trial · Schedule a demo

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