

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model  
Joseph S. Renzulli, Ed.D. & Sally M. Reis, PhD.  
Prufrock Press Inc.  
paperback, \$79.95, 425 pp.  
ISBN-13: 978-1-61821-164-4

Reviewed by Elaine S. Wiener

Reviewing anything by Drs. Renzulli and Reis is like reviewing a perfect dissertation. It is all too flawless, too complete, and too organized. But who would want it any different?

I am not even sure that I agree with the authors' premise: A How-to Guide for Talent Development. Measuring IQ and then calling it "talent" is so biased toward a fixed belief. On the other hand, calling the ability of children an "IQ" is probably biased in another way. We all pick our favorite philosophies...or prejudices.

On page 7, The Schoolwide Enrichment Model starts with an absolute lesson plan for how to read this book:

"...a model should include a shared mission and set of objectives."

Yet at the same time, the Renzullis say that "We believe that the SEM [Schoolwide Enrichment Model] enables teachers to be more creative, to make choices about what is in the best interests of their students, and to have more choice in the instructional strategies they use and the curriculum they implement."

And so I am assuming that while this book offers oh so many ideas to run a classroom, it allows teachers the ability to be creative and original. Teachers would tell you that they love that freedom but they are too busy to always create original curriculum; therefore they welcome all the help "The Schoolwide Enrichment Model" can offer.

The Table of Contents will tempt you to read every page even though this is really a compilation to be used only when needed and not usually to be read through and through. 426 pages is a huge important amount, but the Appendixes are worth the whole show!!

Preface: Your Own Creativity Is the Best Way to Get to Rome

Chapter 1 A Vision and a Plan: The “Why” of Schoolwide Enrichment  
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