### Challenge Lab vs. Traditional GT Pullout Programs

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<th><strong>GT Pullout Program</strong></th>
<th><strong>Challenge Lab Program</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Set-up / Management</strong></td>
<td>-serve identified GT students &lt;br&gt;-usually one GT teacher per elementary campus</td>
<td>-one “enrichment specialist” per elementary campus &lt;br&gt;-GT pullout exists within weekly lab schedule &lt;br&gt;-meets GT program goals while serving all students</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instructional design</strong></td>
<td>Research themes explored through study groups for GT students</td>
<td>-Research themes explored through study groups &lt;br&gt;-serves GT, yet can add unidentified GT students and high achievers to study groups and as drop-ins &lt;br&gt;-allows for connection to classroom instruction &lt;br&gt;-activities vary at times to meet grade level requests</td>
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<td><strong>Schoolwide/ STAAR</strong></td>
<td>Extension of TEKS</td>
<td>-helps “raise the bar” academically for the whole school &lt;br&gt;-helps students strive toward Commended /Advanced Academic performance / Level 3 &lt;br&gt;-enables regular teachers to work with smaller groups in the classroom &lt;br&gt;-lab teacher is an enrichment resource for all teachers</td>
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<td><strong>Student Drop-ins</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-effective incentive for all students to strive for academic success (personal best work, STAAR-tested skills…) &lt;br&gt;-takes away “exclusive” aspect of GT programs &lt;br&gt;-allows for classroom extensions/direct connection to TEKS &lt;br-adds educational value for all high-achieving students</td>
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<td><strong>Research/ Advanced-Level Products/ Student Showcase</strong></td>
<td>Meets state GT requirements for independent research &amp; products</td>
<td>-Meets state GT requirements for independent research &amp; products &lt;br&gt;-available for high achievers also &lt;br&gt;-possibilities for several projects during year &lt;br&gt;-differentiated work &lt;br&gt;-regular classroom teachers participate in showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Affective/Social</strong></td>
<td>Addressed as needed when possible</td>
<td>-proactively addressed through weekly “Lunch Bunches” &lt;br&gt;-customized to meet needs of GT individuals/groups &lt;br&gt;-wide variety of affective resources used</td>
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The Challenge Lab: The Next Step Beyond Mastery!

**What**
- A classroom where students can come for extension lessons, research, higher thinking games and projects
- A place where teachers can send students who have *achieved an academic goal*
- High grade on test (while others re-test or review)
- Mastery of an objective
- Finished class work correctly and neatly
- An exciting, hands-on learning environment

**Why**
- To add value to students’ education
- To give teachers smaller groups to reinforce concepts
- To support classroom curriculum in depth and complexity
- To offer more options for students needing more challenge

**Who**
- Any student who achieves an academic goal (*not just for GT*)
- Identified GT students (scheduled groups)
- High achievers who need extra challenge
- Student with a passion for a topic to study in depth

**How**
- Scheduled Groups
- Printed schedule to every teacher
- Groups come on their own at their lab time
- Open Lab
- Passes (teacher-friendly)
- Time to return
- Activity requested
- Several names on one pass
- Fridays
  - Lab time is very congested
  - Reward visits are typical
  - Save research or more structured activities for another day

**Subjects**
- All Core Subjects
- Grade levels submit sequence of objectives for the year
- Lab Teacher coordinates activities by week/6 weeks
- Teachers may specify an objective to be addressed:
  - 4th Grade Math Obj. 2
  - 3rd grade Texas Famous Dead People
  - 2nd Grade addition double digits w/o regrouping
Challenge Lab Visitor Information

We are so glad your district or school is interested in the Challenge Lab program. It can be a valuable piece to your school!

How can our school benefit from a site visit to a Challenge Lab?

- Browse through a variety of enrichment materials - jot down companies, etc.
- Talk to lab teachers & get answers to basic questions about the Challenge Lab
- Get a packet of basic information that includes items such as:
  - Lab brochure
  - Overview of lab description
  - Sample schedules
  - List of some ways the lab can be used
  - Pass form
  - Details comparing Challenge Lab to traditional pull-out programs

Please help us better share with you by:

- planning to visit several of our labs to see different styles, materials, & set-ups
- letting us know what time you can arrive & when you need to leave, so we can make a tour schedule for you
- feeling free to browse around our labs or ask students questions about Challenge Lab activities while we are busy with students (if we are direct-teaching a study group - which is just like a high level small group lesson or pull-out, we suggest you browse the lab materials & info packet, take notes, etc.)
What if we need or want more than a visit? How can our school/district benefit from outside consulting?

Services include:

- Intense help setting up the lab with specifics such as budget issues, technology, scheduling, forms, specific materials recommendations in detail, help ordering materials, timelines, curriculum, Lunch Bunch, frequent issues, etc. ...customizing these for school or district

- In-service presentation materials or actual on-site presentation for staff (coordinators, administrators, GT teachers, and/or parents) during investigation phase and/or initial year of lab, including staff refreshers...we can create one for you, or we can present it!

- Availability for consultation/troubleshooting throughout the year as needed (email, phone, or even in person if feasible)

- Personal visit by us to nearby districts as needed- especially if several schools in the district are starting a Challenge Lab program

- Help writing grants for Challenge Lab start-up costs, materials, or consultant help

- Consultants can also provide presentations as GT staff development if needed for GT update hours (Challenge Lab program design, differentiated curriculum, affective needs, creativity...) Provider # pending

- Challenge Lab Management Guide (currently in progress)

Please contact us at challengelab@gmail.com or visit us at challengelabenrichment.blogspot.com/

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For more information: Visit us at http://challengelabenrichment.blogspot.com/ or contact us at challengelab@gmail.com
Presentation Options by Challenge Lab Enrichment Consultants
challengelab@gmail.com http://challengelabenrichment.blogspot.com/

- **Challenge Lab: The Next Step Beyond Mastery** (½ day - all audiences)
  Need a fresh approach to differentiation? Want to serve all students when they achieve academic mastery in the classroom, and benefit & encourage the whole school? The Challenge Lab program is your answer! It extends and adds value to learning for high achievers, G/T, and “unidentified G/T” students via in-depth independent study, TEKS-aligned enrichment activities, and advanced-level products.

Participants will leave workshop with:
- Objectives /mission of Challenge Lab model
- Comparison of a Challenge Lab program to traditional Gifted and Talented programs
- Outline of a working lab
- Knowledge of methods & procedures of use
- Ways the lab can help meet affective needs of gifted children
- Suggestions for a variety of resources available
- Question-Answer session
- Information how to contact us to help set up a lab

Other presentations:
- **Language Arts Enrichment: Creative Bookmaking for Kids, Menus, and Creative Book Reports.** (For Gifted and regular classroom teachers- This workshop can be a 6 hour presentation if you include the research components, or it can serve as a 3 hour session without the research component presentation).
  This workshop is geared for teachers that need additional and specific ideas for differentiation in their Language Arts class. Creative and innovative ways to do Book Reports that encourage depth and complexity, bookmaking, writing, and menus that are adaptable for use with literature and after mastery activities.
  - **Creative Book Reports:** Need language arts & literature extensions for your high readers! Do you want to increase the depth and complexity that your students engage in? Learn some kid-friendly creative book report formats that are anything but traditional! Ways to build choice into these literature extensions will also be discussed. Includes fiction, non-fiction, and biography categories.
  - **Creative Book-Making for Kids!** This section of the ELA presentation includes: Mini Books, shape books, flip books and a variety of ways to incorporate hands-on “foldables” into your lessons.

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For more information: Visit us at http://challengelabenrichment.blogspot.com/ or contact us at challengelab@gmail.com
- **Menus for use with literature**—Do you have the child that loves to read, and you want to encourage him to engage in additional activities, but don’t have the time to create and monitor during class? The menu ideas can be used independently or with a group of students.
- **Writing for Life**—includes ideas to stimulate school wide writing activities and ideas for getting all students and teachers on board to write for life!

- **Creativity 101—You can do it!**  3 hours (1/2 day)
  Our world demands creative thinkers! Participants will be introduced to “Creativity 101” which will lead them through a spectrum of ideas. Hands-on activities are provided to generate the needed brain juices, to spark the imagination. All of this material can be sprinkled into the curriculum for an overall increase in academic performance. Don’t miss this one!

- **Differentiation: Let’s make it Easy!**  3 hours (1/2 day)
  Attendees will develop a clear understanding of what differentiation is and is not, by providing information on what a differentiated classroom looks like, the 4 Quadrants, compacting, menus, and a plethora of activities to take back to the classroom for quick implementation. This is designed for the regular education teacher in mind.

- **Research Methods/ Creative &Advanced Level Products Workshop**:  3 hours (1/2 day)
  Are you meeting the new TEKS for research? Do you want to help kids “show what they know” and have fun doing it? We have a solution for you! We offer a simplified and meaningful plan for the inclusion of research techniques in class. Take the stress and mystery out of your students’ research process, and ease into these simple procedures. Samples of the steps, sample rubrics, examples of advanced level products, and product showcase information will be shared.

- **NEW! It’s Not Easy Being Green!**  3 hours (1/2 day)
  Being GT can be such a rollercoaster ride! Learn about the social-emotional needs of our Gifted/Talented learners. We’ll explore the ups and downs of being GT involving issues such as asynchronous development, Imposter Syndrome, fixed vs. growth mindsets, perfectionism, time management, stress, friendships, and more. Examples of helpful bibliotherapy books, strategies, and scenarios will be shared.

- **How to add a little TLC, using “bibliotherapy”, to your affective curriculum!**  (1 hour)
  Presentation will include suggested books, extension activities, and a multitude of ideas for embedding “needs and nature” into your curriculum.
• **Technology with A Twist (3 hrs)**
  Attendees are given useful ways to combine current technology with research. These methods are the ingredients you need to spice up your GT and research curriculum. (Also, you are secretly motivating students while they are having fun!) Step-by-step instruction and sites will be shared.

• **Coming Soon! Playground Science**
  An exciting way to promote science on your playground with engaging school wide activities! This topic is in the developmental stage.

• **Science Workshop: “Sleuthing through Science: Adding Differentiation, One Clue at a Time!”** (1 hour - all audiences)
  Vocabulary is an essential piece in the world of teaching science, but not in isolation. Imagine the idea of easily extending your elementary science curriculum while engaging students in a friendly and weekly competition. Meanwhile they are using deductive reasoning, context clues, and inferences all while researching science concepts in Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Nature of Science. In addition, all of the vocabulary and topics align with the National Standards and Texas TEKS. Imagine No More! Join me in my session for an instant injection of some science sleuthing fun!

• **Student Showcases: Planning and Implementation (1 hour) (GT teachers)**
  As a part of gifted and talented students’ nature and needs, and along with meeting state standards requirements for our students, they are required to develop advanced-level products. It is always an overwhelming task to organize and develop the opportunity to allow our GT students to shine. We have all the ingredients you need in our recipe for success to complete a showcase of student achievement, or product fair. Please join us as we guide you through the “ABCs” of producing a successful celebration of learning!