

Character Lab Network Fact Sheet

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH NETWORK?

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that character strengths like grit, growth mindset, gratitude, and curiosity help students succeed in the classroom and beyond. What is not known—yet—is how schools can most effectively support the development of character. We believe that the best way forward is for world-class scientists to work intimately with our most innovative educators to test new ways of establishing the beliefs, strategies, and habits that enable students to be their best.

Our solution: the Character Lab Research Network.

The Research Network is a consortium of elite scientists and schools. Throughout the academic year, Research Network members will test a variety of activities targeting one or more character strength at no cost to TUSD.

WHAT DOES JOINING ENTAIL?

Learning time is precious. Character Lab will coordinate with each school to ensure that participation is a bonus, not a burden.

Typically, activities will be delivered digitally directly to students in computer labs at their school, in up to four sessions, each lasting one class period or less. For some activities, students will also receive booster texts via their cell phones after school and on weekends. In addition, Research Network teachers and their students may be invited to participate in brief individual or small-group interviews and piloting sessions.

The Research Network is designed to protect teachers' time. Each school in the Research Network must nominate a School Research Lead, an intellectually eager, detail-oriented teacher or administrator who will work with Character Lab up to an hour per week to coordinate activities.

With the partnership with Higher Ground, we can ensure that the school research lead can be a Higher Ground Community School Director or the Americorps VISTA Community School Coordinator by Higher Ground further protecting the teacher's time.

WHO BENEFITS?

Teachers in the Research Network will have first-hand experience in developing innovative approaches to cultivating character. In addition, School Research Leads will enjoy exclusive access to Q&A video calls with researchers, an in-person meeting in July at Character Lab, and complimentary VIP registration for the Character Lab Educator Summit.

Research Network schools will be featured on the Character Lab website and social media. Our Research Network scientists will be able to test and refine their best ideas with unprecedented pace and polish. *Most important, the fruits of the Research Network will be more children from all backgrounds reaching their fullest potential.*