

CORE MESSAGE

Social emotional learning (SEL) helps students and adults thrive in school and life by supporting learners to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

KEY MESSAGE 1

Social-emotional learning helps people develop the essential skills they need to succeed in school and life.

SUPPORT POINTS

- *Developmentally Responsive:* SEL is a process through which young people develop their ability to integrate thinking, feeling, and behaving to succeed at important developmental tasks. SEL supports five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.
- *Future-Ready Learners:* SEL instruction is essential and influences academic success. In our district we utilize a variety of support resources in partnership with SEL data to empower schools and teachers to tailor SEL instruction to the unique strengths and needs of the students they support.
- *Integration:* SEL is not a separate subject or content area. It is about *how* we teach and develop a supportive learning environment, as well as *what* we teach. Students thrive when SEL is promoted and reinforced throughout their academic learning.

KEY MESSAGE 2

Social-emotional learning is focused on creating a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.

SUPPORT POINTS

- *Belonging & Inclusivity:* When teachers and staff build the structures that support belonging and emotional safety, they lay the groundwork for students to focus on academic learning. Establishing structures that create predictability and consistency, being responsive to students' perspectives, and affirming students' strengths increases academic motivation.
- *Relationships:* Learning is a social endeavor. Fostering positive connections between students, adults and peers establishes a nurturing environment of trust and support. When students are taught skills to effectively engage in cooperative learning and class discussions, they are more successful academically and have stronger interpersonal skills.
- *School Climate:* Creating a school culture that fosters SEL and caring relationships improves students' learning environments so they can feel safe, connected, and valued. A positive school climate increases students' engagement and enjoyment in learning.

KEY MESSAGE 3

Social-emotional learning is about the well-being of young people and adults.

SUPPORT POINTS

- *Equity*: All students and staff, regardless of background, deserve a rigorous and respectful learning and work environment where diversity and inclusion is valued and used toward achieving positive academic and social outcomes. SEL supports our ability to intentionally create environments that affirm peoples' cultures and identities.
- *Student Well-being*: Research shows that students who participate in SEL have better coping skills, stronger pro-social skills, and more effective stress management skills.
- *Focus on Adults*: Staff who possess social and emotional competencies are more likely to stay in education longer, build resilience, and cope with stress. In environments that support the cultivation of SEL skills, staff members feel supported, empowered and valued.

KEY DATA POINTS

- 97% of principals are committed to supporting SEL in their schools. ([Civic Enterprises/ Hart Research Associates](#), 2017)
- The success of young people in school and beyond is inextricably linked to healthy social and emotional development. ([The Evidence Base for How We Learn](#), the Aspen Institute, 2017)
- 88% of business leaders say there will be an increasing need for social and emotional skills among future employees and job applications. (Ready Nation, Council for a Strong America, 2017)
- Americans say the most important factors in school quality are teaching cooperation, respect, and problem-solving -- all critical social emotional skills. ([PDK Poll](#), 2017)
- Social-emotional learning skills will be the second most in-demand skills in the workforce over the next 10 years. ([McKinsey Global Institute](#), 2016)
- There is broad support among parents for teaching SEL-related skills in schools (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2021)
- Stakeholders agree on the importance of equity in opportunities and students treating others with respect. ([National Association of State Boards of Education](#), 2019)
- SEL participants demonstrated significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance that reflected an 11-percentile-point gain in achievement. (Durlak, Joseph A.; Weissberg, Roger P.; Dymnicki, Allison B.; Taylor, Rebecca D.; Schellinger, Kriston B. *Child Development*, v82 n1 p405-432 Jan-Feb 2011)