

Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum Overview

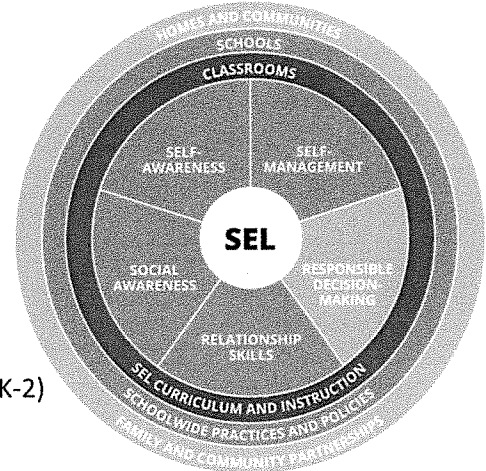
Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

-*Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)*

CASEL Framework →

When was our SEL Curriculum Adopted?

- 2007-08: Safe Schools curriculum committee formed
2008-09: Board of Education (BOE) adopts *Caring School Community* (K-2)
2009-10: Board of Education (BOE) adopts *Steps to Respect* (3-5)



Caring School Community Program

The Caring School Community (CSC) program is a research-based, K-6 program that builds classroom and schoolwide community. It provides specific lessons and activities that integrate community-building efforts across the school day and throughout the school year. The program consists of four components designed to work together to build community in the classroom and the school

1. Class Meetings (Topic-specific Lessons)
2. Cross-age Buddies Program (Relationship-building activities)
3. Homeside Activities (short activities to be done with family)
4. Schoolwide Community-Building Activities (collection of noncompetitive activities to link students, parents, teachers, and other adults)

Key Features of the CSC program include (1) Respectful, supportive relationships among students, teachers, and parents, (2) Frequent opportunities for students to help and collaborate with others, (3) Frequent opportunities for student autonomy and participation in decision making, and (4) Emphasis on common purposes and ideals.

Steps to Respect

Steps to Respect: A Bullying Prevention Program is an effective tool that educators can use to decrease bullying at school and help students build more supportive relationships with each other. The program's dual focus on bullying and friendship is based on research showing that friendship protects children from the harmful effects of bullying. Students learn a variety of relationship skills, including strategies for making and keeping friends and steps for joining a group activity. The *Steps to Respect* program also teaches children skills for coping with bullying, including recognizing bullying, using assertive behaviors to respond to bullying, and reporting bullying to adults.

Key skills addressed by the program include (1) Social-Emotional Competence, (2) Emotional Intelligence Skills: Perspective taking, empathy, managing emotions, (3) Self-Management Skills: Risk assessments and decision making, setting and achieving positive goals, (4) Social skills: Assertive communication, distinguishing intentional from unintentional hurt, conflict resolution, building and maintaining friendships, (5) Academic Skills: vocabulary enrichment, analyses of literary elements, text-comprehension, and (6) Positive Social Values: empathy, sense of fairness, and desire to have rewarding friendships.

Current Work and Next Steps

- Implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is building upon the existing SEL curriculum
- The new K-5 English Language Arts (ELA) adoption includes embedded SEL components
- The K-5 report card has been updated to include SEL assessment components (from CASEL's core competencies)
- Additional professional development is needed for current curricula to address teacher turnover and refresher training
- A committee will be convened to review both SEL and Anti-Bias curriculum with the goal of presenting recommendations to the Board in May/June 2017.