

**Superintendent’s Interpretation**  
**Board Policy 1800 OE-1, Fundamental 3**  
**(Approved March 11, 2021)**

**Fundamental 3**

“Develop self-awareness, empathy, emotional/social intelligence, responsible decision-making and citizenship.”

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.” Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) update 2020.

The Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks Workgroup (SELB) convened by OSPI released a report that contains background information, research and recommendations regarding social emotional learning (SEL). This report states, “social emotional learning is broadly defined as a process through which people build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships and making responsible decisions, leading to success in school and life.” As an aspect of character development, citizenship encompasses a sense of fulfilling civic duties, contributing to the community, respecting authority and pursuing civic values. Social emotional skills are critical to being good students, citizens and workers. SEL recognizes students are complex human beings whose learning and behavior are just as impacted by their emotions – and their control over those emotions – as they are by the quality of instruction and discipline.

Adopted: 02/09/17

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