

MS SEL Curriculum Adoption Committee Update  
December, 2023

The MS SEL Curriculum Adoption Committee is delighted to announce, after extensive research and thoughtful consideration, we have identified **CharacterStrong** and **Second Step** as the top contenders for advancement to the next stage of our piloting process.

Here's a brief rationale for each:

### **CharacterStrong**

- Strengths:
  - Age-appropriate and engaging.
  - Online platform, no prep, and easy for teachers to access.
  - Positive focus on community building and student voice.
- Considerations:
  - While there are concerns about cultural competency and potential lack of substance, the positive aspects, such as engagement and community building, make it worth considering for a pilot.

### **Second Step**

- Strengths:
  - Familiarity and consistency across the district.
  - Online platform, no prep, and easy for teachers to access with accompanying worksheets.
  - Strong research background with evidence of effectiveness.
- Considerations:
  - Despite concerns about potential outdatedness and not resonating with students since they use the curriculum in elementary, Second Step has a strong foundation with proven effectiveness and familiarity across the district.

To see in depth analysis of the data, see [Narrowing to pilot data analysis .docx or](#) and screen shot of ratings below. For raw data, please see: [MS SEL Curriculum to Pilot data.xlsx](#).

### **Upcoming Actions:**

- The Building SEL Leaders group is scheduled to convene on 12/12 for vendor training and to initiate planning for the upcoming pilot phase, slated to run from January through April.
- Each school will implement varied lessons and delivery models during the pilot.
- Communication will be disseminated to inform staff, students, and families in advance of pilot lesson delivery.
- Throughout the pilot, we will actively seek feedback from staff, students, and families.
- The Committee will meticulously analyze the feedback data to formulate a recommendation for the Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) regarding the selected curriculum.

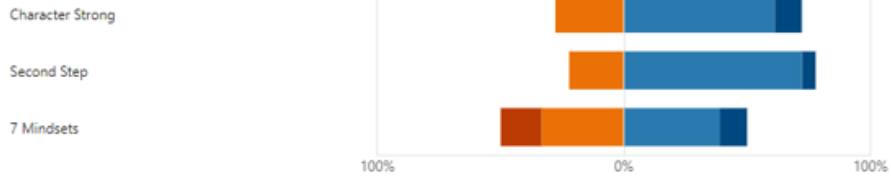
If you have any questions about the Middle School SEL Adoption Committee, please visit <https://bsd405.org/get-involved/community-advisory-groups/msselcac/> or contact Wendy Powell, Secondary SEL Developer, at [powellw@bsd405.org](mailto:powellw@bsd405.org).

### Screen shots of ratings

1. Rate each curriculum on STRUCTURE (number of lessons, cadence, time, scope & sequence, flexibility & evidence)

[More Details](#)

■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Unsure



2. Rate each curriculum on PD, SUPPORT & IMPLEMENTATION (ease of implementation, training, ongoing support and accountability)

[More Details](#)

■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Unsure



3. Rate each curriculum on CURRICULUM CONTENT (authentic, relevant, engaging, types of materials, languages, family/principal resources and how critical criteria are represented in materials)

[More Details](#)

■ Low ■ Medium ■ High ■ Unsure

