



Climate and Culture Survey and SEL Committee Update

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THE RYE COMMITMENT

The Board of Education of the Rye City School District understands that a world class education requires hard work, collaboration and dedication from everyone in the community. We take our responsibility of overseeing the academic and social-emotional development of our children in an equitable, inclusive environment very seriously. We are genuinely grateful to the faculty, staff, administration, families, and community for all of the hard work and support provided every day to educate our children to the highest of national and State standards.

Therefore, the Board of Education has developed **The Rye Commitment**—assurances to students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community that we will support the important work of our schools.

STUDENTS



TO STUDENTS:

We will provide the necessary support for you to receive an education that helps you become critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborators, creative problem solvers and caring individuals who positively contribute to a diverse global environment.

FACULTY | STAFF ADMINISTRATION



TO FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATION:

We will support you and our collective pursuit of excellence through ongoing professional learning that is high quality, relevant, meaningful, and allows us to evolve and expand our practices.

COMMUNITY

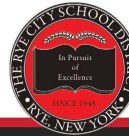


TO THE COMMUNITY:

We will reflect upon our work, seek feedback, always strive for improvement, and ask you to engage in meaningful discussions about our programs and all that we do to create and support an equitable, inclusive, fiscally responsible school system.

COMMITTED TO RYE SCHOOLS

Adopted October 2024



RCSD: Our SEL Journey

- SEL committee to support social-emotional learning district wide
- Implementation of the Climate and Culture Survey to gather student feedback
- Data informed initiatives guiding SEL practices including implementation of STEPS-A DBT Lessons at RMS
- Hiring of Director of School Counseling and Student Wellness to lead SEL efforts
- Ongoing commitment to fostering student well being and support learning environments



Essential Question

What are the ways we can enhance the culture and climate within every building so that students feel a sense of belonging and connection?



SEL Areas of Focus (SEL Committee Recommendations)

Focus Area	RHS	RMS	Elementary
#1	Belonging & School Connectedness	Belonging & School Connectedness	Conflict Resolution
#2	Safety & Bullying	Safety & Bullying	Safety & Bullying
#3	Student Support & Engagement	Student Support & Engagement	Impulsivity & Decision Making

Next Step: Gr. 5 - 12 Student Focus Groups



RHS: Belonging & Connectedness

Ongoing Work

- Admin/Security greeting students during entry
- Connecting with students during community lunch
- Offering student activities during community lunch
- Highlighting student achievements and birthdays during morning announcements
- Utilizing social media & Garnet Review to highlight students
- Expanding student government program focusing on belonging
- Leveraging Challenge Success - "I Wish Campaign"
- Offering a variety of student clubs (P2P, bridges, BTC)
- Convening a faculty/student Vision Committee to re-envision RHS
- Best Buddies Club / Inclusivity Week / Unified PE

Next Steps

- Reinforce Tier 1 practices which enhance community building inside classroom
- Introduce community-building days
- Revive the homecoming dance
- Student Showcase



RHS: Safety & Bullying

Ongoing Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Intervening upon receiving reports of safety concerns and bullying incidents● Limiting exit doors to ensure students are accounted for● Conducting comprehensive emergency drills● Maintaining open-door policies for administrators and student support staff● Training students and staff in DASA violation identification and reporting procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete process of being a No Place for Hate school● Partner with student government for messaging and communication● Morning announcements/social media messaging



RHS: Student Support & Engagement

Ongoing Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Utilizing faculty meetings to provide professional development related to building goals● Providing timely observation and teacher feedback● Bolstering the MTSS process● Supporting teachers in implementing authentic and active learning experiences● Providing instructional technology coaches to support faculty● Maintaining consistency of policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Leverage MTSS process to provide Tier 1 support recommendations to classroom teachers● Align and norm administrative teacher feedback● Identify best practices from classroom visits & highlight those practices● Train 9th grade teachers and school counselors in DBT language being used with our current 8th graders



RMS: Belonging & Connectedness

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Integrating SEL practices in daily life<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Learning about SEL-centered teaching○ Implementing school-based DBT at each grade● Designing thoughtful team structures● Orchestrating team-building field trips and activities● Implementing developmental lessons in classrooms● Expanding Building Bridges program● Utilizing counselor / support team model to provide individual student support (Child Support Team)● Partnering with Challenge Success - “I Wish...” campaign● Building School Culture through “Shine Bright”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Consistently acknowledge and reward students for positive behavior through Citizenship & Kindness awards and shout-outs● Streamline and standardize SEL practices● Responsive Classroom visits at elementary schools● Hold individual student progress meetings in the classroom to provide timely feedback



RMS: Safety & Bullying

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Implementing “Together We Rise” developmental lessons● Rolling out the full grades 6-8 DBT STEPS-A curriculum● Hosting the “Art in Motion” assembly in April● Continuing restorative approaches when working with students regarding discipline● Launching Kindness Day activities● Continuing Building Bridges program throughout grades 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Include anti-bullying messages and student shout-outs in the morning announcements● Provide anti-bullying materials for teachers to integrate into classroom lessons and curriculum development● Introduce No Place for Hate activities which expand the dialogue around bullying and inclusion● Display student successes on bulletin boards throughout the building● Reinforce common DBT language in communications and faculty meetings



RMS: Student Support & Engagement

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Facilitating and increasing opportunities for authentic projects● Utilizing data obtained from common assessments to guide curriculum development● Providing timely and meaningful feedback and coaching on instruction● Increasing student choice within the classroom● Establishing clear MTSS structures and protocols to provide timely student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conduct focus groups to learn more from students● Utilize learner profiles to expand curriculum● Incorporate more diverse perspectives● Connect real-world experiences more frequently



Elementary: Conflict Resolution

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Utilizing Kelso's Choices to help students better manage conflict● Refining school-counselor push-in lessons to support student needs● Conducting pre- and post-assessments on SEL topics to guide curriculum development● Implementing Responsive Classroom to proactively teach children how to communicate effectively with peers and adults● Providing ongoing training and support for counselors in DBT STEPS-E curriculum● Holding conflict resolution meetings between students to assist them in talking through conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Train recently hired aides in Kelso's Choices and provide refresher for previously trained aides● Purchase, provide, and install additional Kelso's Choices materials on playgrounds● Assemble recess conflict resolution team to design recess-friendly supports which build on Kelso's Wheel (activities for each choice on the wheel)



Elementary: Safety & Bullying

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Leveraging Responsive Classroom to build community and promote student kindness● Following clear protocols for investigating and resolving potential bullying issues● Raising awareness around learning differences through Building Bridges● Hosting daily community-building events for Inclusivity Week● Hosting the “Art in Motion” assembly in April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide additional support for school aides in implementing Responsive Classroom practices● Focus groups to involve student government in discussion, feedback, and plans● Revise K-5 curriculum to provide yearly touchpoints on identifying, reporting, and managing situations that may involve bullying and harassment



Elementary: Impulsivity & Decision Making

Current Work	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Acknowledging pro-social behaviors through shout-outs and student recognition● K-2: Teaching lessons on identifying emotions, emotional regulation, and mindfulness● 3-5: Teaching lessons on healthy decision-making using Steps E DBT curriculum and mindfulness strategies● Creating calm corners / sensory walls, paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide anchor charts aligned to school counseling curriculum to classroom teachers to reinforce language and strategies● Create and display materials in hallways and public spaces aligned to Kelso's Choices and DBT: STEPS-E● Assemble inter-building implementation team to plan for introduction of calm corners in specials



Next Steps

SEL Committee Mid-Year Meeting (February)

- Review focus group data at mid-year meeting
- Review Challenge Success survey data

SEL Committee End of Year Meeting (May)

- Compare pre and post Climate and Culture Survey data
- Propose next steps for 2026-27

SEL Teacher Toolkit K-12

- SEL-focused feedback and parent outreach techniques
- SEL activities (check-ins, 5 minute openers, 15+ minute activities)



Questions/Discussion

