



Session Summary

Session 6 • July 22, 2021

Prioritizing Social, Emotional, & Mental Health of our Students: Entry Points for Implementing SEL in Schools Today

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[Watch Session 6](#)

Overview

Prioritizing support for students' social-emotional and behavioral needs is vital for returning to and succeeding in school. Investing in social-emotional learning (SEL) assessments, SEL curricula, SEL professional development, and technical assistance and systems work, will provide the opportunity to help build a trusting relationship between families, students, and educators and improve students' emotional wellness and performance. Visit [CSDE Social-Emotional Learning \(SEL\)](#).

Universal assessment for all students

Provide a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment for all students that is easy, quick, reliable, and strengths-based. The assessment provides a data-driven approach to SEL, leading directly to strategies and interventions for students and enabling schools to document progress, evaluate outcomes, and continuously improve their SEL programming over time based on school needs.

Example: Procured the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) System. The DESSA comprehensive system is a strength-based assessment of behaviors related to social-emotional well-being that help in identifying interventions and supports, including documenting progress over time and outcomes. For more information, visit [Connecticut + Aperture Education](#).

Evidence-based SEL curricula grades K-12

SEL is part of the fabric of the school culture and community. SEL advances educational equity and performance through rigorous and meaningful curriculum

and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. Resiliency and SEL have taught us that emotional and behavioral regulation skills can be explicitly taught in schools and that the benefits are enormous!

Example: The Connecticut K through Grade 3 Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits Framework represents the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that form an essential blueprint for college and career readiness to achieve academic success and SEL. Visit [Components of Social Emotional and Intellectual Habits K3](#).

SEL professional development and technical assistance and systems work

Creating clear and concise systems in beliefs, policies, and practices ensures a shared understanding, both collectively and individually, specific to educators' role, the purpose, and nature of SEL work.

Resources: [Professional Support Series for Districts](#); [Professional Support Series for Families](#); [Social Emotional Learning Hub](#)

Learn about the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)

Join the state of Connecticut in strengthening student social and emotional skills. The Connecticut State Department of Education is providing DESSA universal screener and assessment to every district in the state beginning Fall 2021 at no cost. Transform your district with the fastest, easiest, most reliable SEL measurement tool on the market. [Get more information and sign up for a session.](#)