

Spark Innovation



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Prioritizing Social, Emotional and Mental Health of our Students

Entry Points for Implementing SEL in Schools Today

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Presentation Objectives

1

Defining and understanding why SEL is essential, especially during this time

2

Initial steps to building an equitable foundation, systemically, for SEL.

3

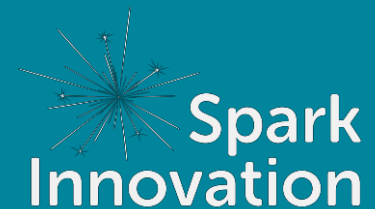
Leverage coherence systems to scale and sustain SEL.

4

Using High-impact equitable practices you can start doing right now

5

Q+A



Connecticut's Definition for SEL



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) ***Public Act 19-166*** ***An Act Concerning School Climate***

SEL is the process through which children and adults achieve emotional intelligence through *self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.*



Share out a few Insights in the Chat

Questions:

What do you want our students to be, know and do during the school journey and after graduation?

What do we want our staff to be, know and do to get the students there?

How do we build, execute, and deliver intentional systems coherence?



Why does SEL Work Matter?

Improvements

- Improved outcomes for post-secondary
- Improved attitudes about self, others, and school
- Increase academic engagement and performance
- Positive classroom behavior

Declines

- Decrease in discipline issues
- Decrease in absenteeism
- Decrease in emotional stress

....and adults benefit too

Teachers who possess social and emotional competencies stay in the classroom longer—less burnout.



Evidence-based Universal Assessment

Improve K-12 students:

- Early intervention identification;
- Social-emotional skills and habits contributing to positive school climate and performance;
- Equitable access to social and emotional skills and habits; and
- Connectedness in school with an adult.



Evidence-based SEL Curricula Grades K-12

- SEL advances educational equity and performance through evidence-based 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.
- Focus on adult behaviors is essential for supporting social and emotional habits throughout a child's educational experience.
- These programs can be used as standalone instruction or integrated into the academic curricula.



Equity and SEL

Equity

fair and just
institutional
policies and
practices

Access

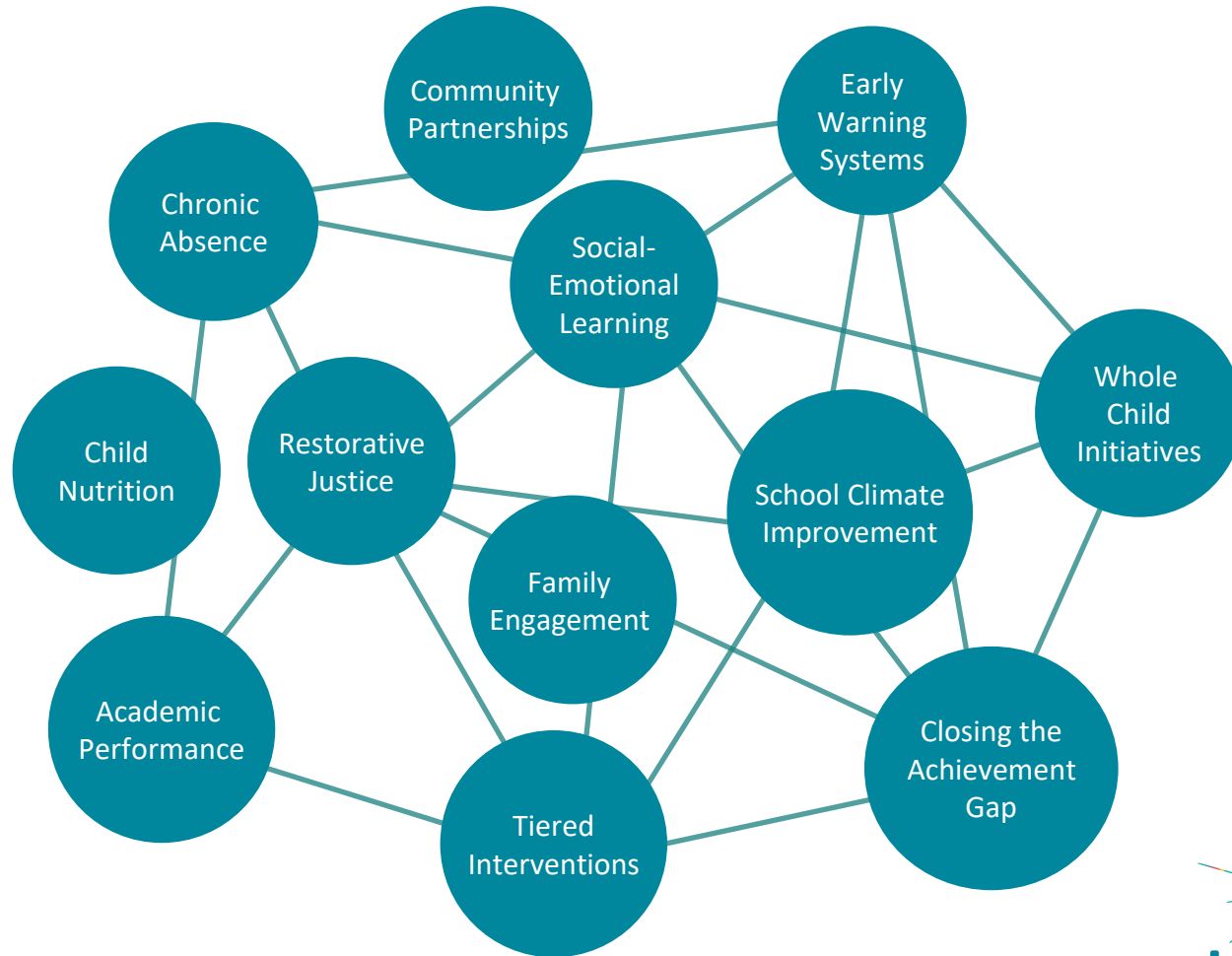
To fully
participate in
learning
without
barriers

Inclusion

A sense of
belonging,
being heard
and valued



Integrating and Coordinating School Improvement Efforts



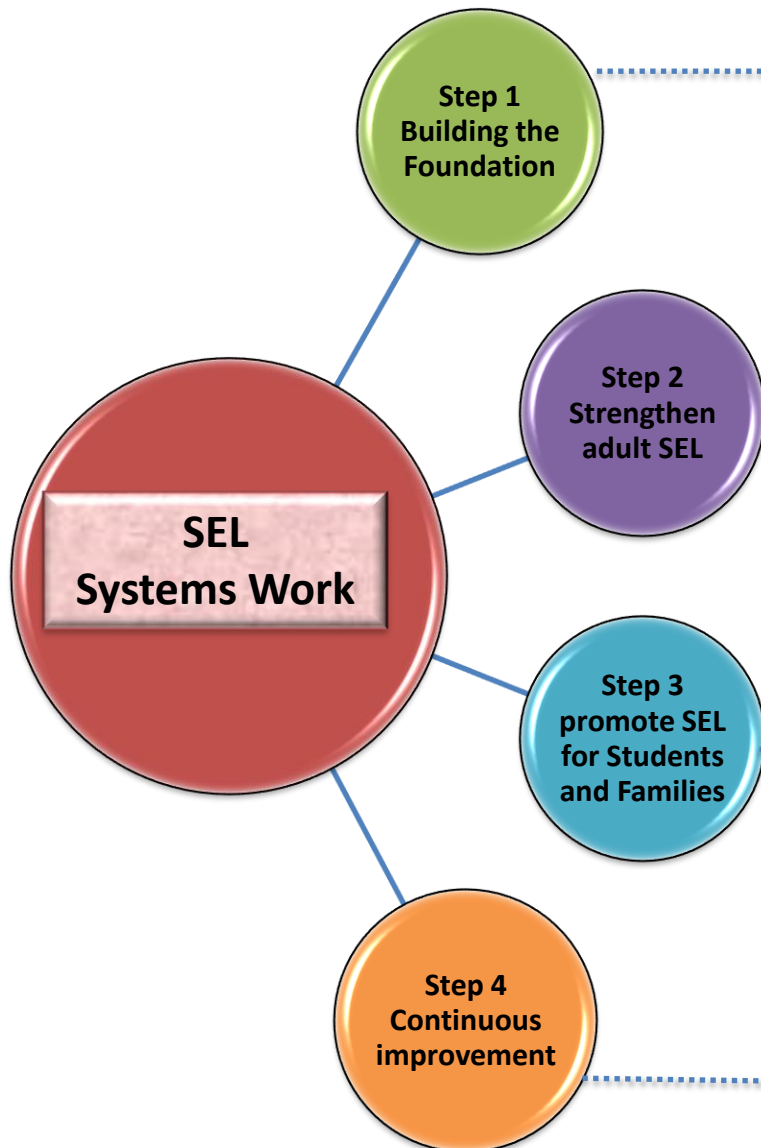
Leverage Coherence Systems

Creating clear and concise systems in beliefs, policies, and practices ensures a shared understanding, both collectively and individually

- SEL professional learning and technical assistance-adult learning is essential!
- Data literacy to address the students' needs
- Aligning policy to practice
- Build capacity
- Allocate the right resources to scale and sustain SEL.



Steps to Coherence Systems



- Develop a core SEL Team
 - Build Awareness
 - Develop a Shared SEL Vision
 - Address policy and practices alignment
 - Conduct a need & resource assessments
 - Assess what you have and identify gaps
 - Set SEL goals as part of the Strategic Operating Plan
 - Use common language and integrate or align initiatives
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- Professional learning and technical assistance to build capacity
 - Create structures that foster trust and collaboration among staff
 - Foster supportive classroom environments that engage in explicit SEL and integrate SEL throughout instruction
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- Evidence-based practices and programs regarding behavior and social-emotional
 - Comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive
 - Cross-sector collaboration with community) and equitable family partnership
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- Measurable outcome data to assess, monitor, evaluate for growth over time.
 - A continuum of integrated supports

Recap-Ten Investment Possibilities

1. Universal Assessments
2. A good data collection system
3. Evidence-Based SEL Curriculum
4. Family and Community Partnerships
5. SEL integrated with academic instruction and behavioral supports (coherence)
6. Student voice
7. High-impact equitable practices
8. Adult SEL and supports
9. A continuum of integrated supports (resources needed)
10. Systems for continuous improvement



Thank you

