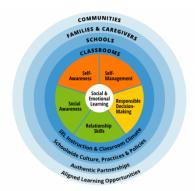
## Socio-Emotional Learning:

Braiding SEL into District-Wide Initiatives to Maximize Success

## What is Socio-Emotional Learning?



Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a coordinated set of evidence-based programs and practices for enhancing social-emotional-cognitive development, positive behavior and interpersonal relationships, and academic performance (CASEL, 2020).

## What are the steps to take to identify an appropriate SEL curriculum?

CASEL's Program Guide includes 77 programs focusing on a variety of topics, grade levels and outcomes. Determining how to select a program that is relevant and effective is often an overwhelming task for schools and districts. Following a <u>Curriculum Guide</u> can take the guess work out of the process. Below are the steps we recommend following to select a successful SEL curriculum.

Step 1: Develop a Team & Timeline

Step 2: Identify Meaningful Short and Long-Term Outcomes

**Step 3: Explore Current SEL Practices** 

Step 4: Evaluate & Select SEL Curriculum

Step 5: Plan SEL Curriculum Implementation with Current Practices in Mind

## What do we need to consider when implementing a curriculum in our school?

As important as it is to choose a relevant and effective curriculum, the fidelity of the implementation of the curriculum has a significant impact on student outcomes. The best curriculum will not make a difference if it is implemented poorly. Having a plan for how to support implementation is a critical element of a strong approach to SEL. Several different components need to be considered before <u>rolling out an SEL curriculum</u>. Below are the 5 most important considerations.



Integration: Can you clearly articulate how the SEL curriculum connects to other recently launched initiatives and/or SEL-associated initiatives (e.g., school-wide behavior supports, responsive classroom, restorative justice)?



Communication: Have you planned the messages you want to deliver to staff regarding the SEL curriculum including what will be shared and the manner with which it will be delivered?



Resources: Have you identified and acquired the materials, financial support, and personnel necessary to train staff and maintain implementation of the curriculum with fidelity?



Roles & Responsibilities: Have you identified the quality standards of implementation so that all staff have a responsibility to support implementation AND it is clear what components of the curriculum are essential, when SEL instruction should occur, how often, and by whom?



Measurement: Have you identified a measurement tool to assess implementation fidelity and student outcomes, along with a system to support the use of the measure, and a process for providing feedback to and from staff?

