

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 [Curriculum Guide](#) 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 [rolling out an SEL curriculum](#). Below are the 5 most important considerations.

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