

7 compelling reasons why Illinois school leaders are putting Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) to work in their schools



Illinois Children's
Mental Health Partnership
University of Illinois Extension
Collaborative for Academic, Social,
and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Illinois State Board of Education

ILLINOIS SCHOOL LEADERS AGREE:

1. SEL enhances student academic performance
2. SEL improves a school's learning environment
3. SEL increases attendance and graduation rates
4. SEL promotes positive social behavior and decreases problem behavior and emotional distress
5. SEL enhances teacher performance and retention
6. SEL standards support a school's academic mission
7. SEL supports Response to Intervention (RtI) goals

"Our test scores have increased nearly 10% and our discipline referrals have been greatly reduced in the elementary grades."

*— Andy Brooks, Superintendent, South Pekin Grade School District #137;
Principal, South Pekin Grade School, South Pekin, IL*

"At TILDEN, we're learning through SEL principles to really value each other. SEL should be integrated into the curriculum beginning at the primary level so that at the high school level, SEL is the only way to live!"

*— Phyllis Hammond, Principal,
Tilden Community Career Academy High School, Chicago*

"SEL has helped us create a positive climate for learning and given us insight into how to keep children engaged. The teaching and the learning are better here at Cossitt."

— Mary Tavegia, Principal, Cossitt Elementary School, LaGrange, IL

"People ask us how do we fit SEL into our school day. We tell them that at Belle, SEL is *how we are*, how we interact, how we communicate, how we model and teach our students. We are a school family."

— Elizabeth Blachinsky, Principal, Belle Alexander Elementary School, Kewanee, IL

LEARN MORE!

Discover how the Illinois SEL Standards can improve *your* school.

SCHEDULE

this informative presentation:

SEL: AN ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS IN SCHOOL, WORK AND LIFE.

The presentation is part of a statewide professional development initiative to prepare school staff to implement SEL standards. It describes social and emotional learning and how your school, students and staff can benefit from an SEL enhanced educational experience. It also presents a series of recommended steps to help you introduce SEL standards into your school and promote more effective academic, social and emotional education. Presenters will discuss:

- What is social and emotional learning and why is it important?
- What is Illinois doing to promote SEL?
- How can you start putting SEL to work in your school?

For more information or to request a presentation for your school, contact **Linda Delimata**, SEL Training Coordinator, Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership. Call **815-652-2054, x224** or email ldelimata@leeogle.org.

PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING IS KEY TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN SCHOOL, WORK AND LIFE.

The 2003 Illinois Children's Mental Health Act Requires:

- Schools to provide SEL for *all* students
- All school districts to develop policies to incorporate SEL into their educational program
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to develop and implement social and emotional learning standards

This ground-breaking legislation established a new direction for education in Illinois. It embraces the idea that public schools *can* integrate SEL instruction with core academic subjects, and that children who acquire these skills are more successful in school, work and life.

What is Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and How Does It Improve Our Schools?

SEL is the developmental process of acquiring the skills needed to effectively and ethically handle ourselves, our relationships and our work. Through SEL, children and adults learn to manage emotions, establish positive relationships, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions and constructively handle challenging situations.

As a coordinating framework for school improvement, SEL provides explicit K-12 skills instruction and creates safe, caring

Good News!

SEL provides a coordinating framework that supports your school's academic mission and promotes good health and well-being.

learning environments schoolwide. This combination has increased student academic performance and produced better grades and higher graduation rates. SEL has also improved teacher and staff performance and professional satisfaction, and it has increased retention rates.



PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS cont'd.

Five Core Competencies Form the Basis for the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards

These SEL core competencies represent what students need to know and be able to do to meet the Illinois SEL standards.

Self-awareness:

Recognize one's emotions and values as well as one's strengths and limitations

Self-management:

Manage one's emotions and behaviors

Social awareness:

Show understanding and empathy for others

Relationship Skills:

Form positive relationships, working in teams, and dealing effectively with conflict

Responsible decision-making: Make ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior

More Good News!

SEL promotes positive student attitudes and increases academic motivation. Teachers manage classrooms better and increase instruction time.

SEL Skills Are Essential for Academic Achievement

SEL significantly improves student academic performance on standardized tests. Moreover, students with SEL experience are more interested in learning, are more attached to school, have better school attendance and are less disruptive in class. SEL enables children to form good relationships with teachers and peers and to participate fully in their educational experience.

SEL Prepares Students for the 21st Century Workforce

Today's business community fully recognizes the value of social and emotional skills in workplace effectiveness. Roughly half of the skills identified as necessary for the 21st century workforce by the U.S. Department of Labor and by employers, involve social and emotional competencies such as communication, decision making and problem solving. SEL instruction develops these skills and enhances student success both academically and in the workplace.



HOW TO START SEL IN YOUR SCHOOL

Begin by contacting Linda Delimata, SEL Training Coordinator at 815-652-2054, x224 or at ldelimata@leeogle.org to schedule our presentation entitled “SEL: An Essential Foundation of Student Success in School, Work and Life.” You’ll learn what social and emotional learning (SEL) is, why it is important and what Illinois is doing to promote it. Knowledgeable, friendly presenters will answer your questions and encourage discussion. They can refer you to school leaders who have experience implementing SEL as a coordinating framework and are already experiencing school improvements. You’ll also learn about other resources that can provide advice and detailed information on SEL and its record of success in Illinois.

For more information or to request the presentation, contact **Linda Delimata**, SEL Training Coordinator, Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership
Call **815-652-2054, x224**
or email ldelimata@leeogle.org.

Additional information about social and emotional learning and the Illinois SEL standards is available at the following websites:

- The Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP): www.icmhp.org
- The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL): www.casel.org
- University of Illinois Extension: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/sel>
- The Illinois State Board of Education: www.isbe.net (for the Illinois SEL standards)

Supported by the following organizations:



Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning



Illinois State Board of Education