

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) sets Ohio's students up for future success.

We want all children to receive an education that helps them develop critical life skills, achieve their goals, and be informed, active citizens.

“ **Before the pandemic, about 13% to 22% of school-age youth experienced some mental health challenge. Now researchers estimate that that number is up to 80%.**

- Miguel Cardona,
U.S. Education Secretary,
(NPR Interview, Oct. 19, 2021)

However, students are facing unprecedented mental health challenges right now.

The research is clear: social emotional skill sets – such as **self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making** – help children and young people cope with stress, uncertainty, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and the complex realities that have complicated their lives before, but especially since, the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is "the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions." (CASEL)

SEL improves academic outcomes.



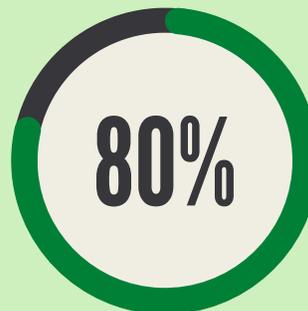
An analysis of 213 classroom-based SEL programs showed that participants saw an **11-percentile-point** gain in academic achievement.

Research shows that SEL in classrooms:

- Increases the likelihood of graduating on time, attaining post-secondary education, and gaining full-time employment by age 25.
- Reduces rates of disciplinary infractions and justice system involvement.
- Prevents bullying.
- Improves student relationships with educators.

SEL matters for Ohio's economic success and prepares youth for the world of work.

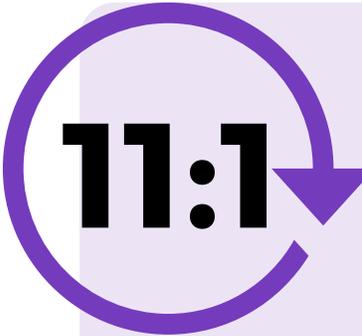
The 15 job readiness skills identified by Ohio business leaders in the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Criteria align with the competencies in our Ohio SEL standards.



Nearly 80% of employers say SEL skills are the most important qualities for job success.

(World Bank Group, 2016)

McKinsey & Co. expects the value of SEL skills to be even higher in 2030.



11:1

SEL is a smart investment.

A Columbia University study found an average return on investment was \$11 for every \$1 spent on SEL programs in schools.



SEL supports mental health - but they are not the same thing.

SEL supports mental health by helping to prevent risky behaviors and creating protective factors against mental health risks, such as boosting positive self-esteem.

As part of a system of supports in schools, SEL helps in early identification of children struggling with serious mental health challenges requiring referrals for treatment by a behavioral health professional.

4X

81% of students in schools with strong SEL programming are likely to say their voice matters, compared to just 18% in weak SEL schools

according to "Respected" a 2018 youth survey by CASEL

Setting Ohio Students Up for Future Success:

- **Protect Ohio's K-12 Social and Emotional Learning Standards.** In 2019, the State Board of Education adopted standards for SEL that are evidence-based to provide every student equitable opportunities to learn and practice age-appropriate skills. These standards were a response to programming already happening in schools throughout Ohio and were developed over a 10-month period in a transparent stakeholder process to help each district consider their own local implementation based on community needs and values.
- **Call for Ohio's next Superintendent of Public Instruction to prioritize SEL.** Ohio's strategic plan for education, Each Child, Our Future, creates a vision for prek-12 education that "each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society." This plan recognizes social-emotional learning as one key learning domain in making this vision a reality for every child. Ohio children deserve a leader who recognizes the clear benefits of SEL and is committed to every child's success.
- **Oppose legislation that would undermine life & professional skills.** An honest and inclusive education benefits every student, not just by making them feel valued and accepted, but also by helping them build essential life and professional skills. HB 322 and HB 327 undermine child development of critical thinking, communication, interpersonal, and other skills that research shows improve the likelihood for greater educational attainment, employability, and economic security later in life.