



Start Building Tomorrow's Workforce Today



Partnering with schools for a 21st century workforce



Three Trends Shaping the Future Workforce

These trends may seem obvious, but they are also powerful and fundamental in shaping what sort of people will be needed in the workforce of the future.

- 1.** Technology and automation. Work will continue to be driven by innovations in computing power, software, AI, robotics, sensors, materials, and more.
- 2.** Decentralization. Organizations, the work process, and even individual careers will continue to be spread out across multiple locations and multiple teams or partners or employers. The pandemic accelerated the work-from-home and digital nomad trends.
- 3.** Diversity. Workers, organizations, and the workplace will continue diversifying in terms of cultures, languages, identities, and abilities. We see this in the workplace discussions and tensions around identity topics like race and gender and sexual orientation and neurodiversity and agism.

Along with academic skills, workers need the social and emotional skills to succeed in a diverse, decentralized, and automated economy.

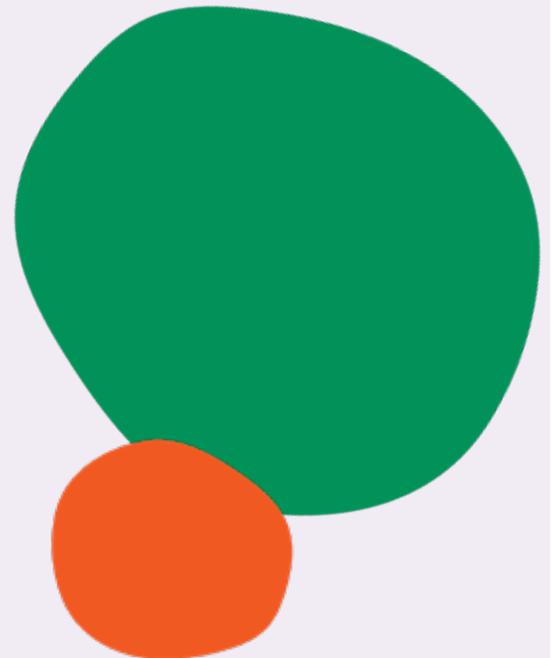




10 Reasons Why Your Community's Schools Should Have Social and Emotional Learning

Schools are a major contributor to workforce readiness. Decades of rigorous research show that teaching social and emotional learning in schools has many positive outcomes in preparing kids for careers. Here are ten.

1. Higher test scores
2. Higher high school graduation rates
3. Stronger interpersonal skills
4. Lower rates of anxiety and depression
5. Less substance abuse
6. Improved relationships
7. Higher creativity
8. Higher empathy and collaboration in diverse teams
9. Stronger leadership skills
10. Better resilience and conflict resolution





Better resilience and conflict resolution

At the end of 2021, all sorts of alarm bells went off about youth mental health. The U.S. Surgeon General issued a youth mental health alert, saying that the crisis required a “whole of society” response. The Children’s Hospital Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics also, and independently, issued similar alarms about youth mental health.

That all-hands-on-deck response must include businesses. Business is a major way that our society solves problems. There is great opportunity in solving great problems, as well. But more than that, it’s in business’s self interest to help kids go from mental health crisis to curious, empathetic, imaginative, motivated, and purposeful.

And SEL is how they get there.





**75% of
Schools
Today Don't
Have SEL.**

**But 1%
Makes a
Difference.**

Stay with us for a little math.

There are 50 million enrolled public school students in the U.S (not counting private schools and homeschooling).

Only 25% of schools offer a comprehensive SEL curriculum.

That means that 75% of 50 million students - approximately 40 million kids - aren't getting SEL instruction as school.

But, if we increase SEL adoption by just one percent, that means another 400,000 kids get the benefits of SEL.

That could include the kids of your working parents and your future staff.





+80% of Parents Want What SEL Offers for Their Kids.

A survey of 2,000 parents by YouGov and the Fordham Institute found that large majorities of parents support schools teaching SEL-related skills. This was true regardless of parents' politics or backgrounds.

These skills help make for great employees. And promoting the teaching of these skills wins you the appreciation of working parents and purchasing parents.

93%

Set goals and work towards achieving them

91%

Approach challenges in a positive, optimistic way

91%

Believe in themselves and their abilities

86%

Navigate social situations

85%

Respond ethically

83%

Prepare to be an active, informed citizen

82%

Understand, express, and control their emotions

81%

Stand up for people of different backgrounds

81%

Empathize with the feelings of others



Five People You Can Talk With to Get SEL Into Your Community Schools

Educators may seem overloaded and stressed. Many of them are. But they care about providing opportunity for a great life to all their students. Businesses asking for and supporting SEL in schools is the most effective way to make it happen.

Here are five people to potentially talk with about SEL in schools. You can find school contact information on school websites. We left some space for you to write information here in one central place.



A local school principal



The local school district superintendent



A school board member or candidate



Your elected state representative



Other business leaders

Six Things to Say to Get SEL Into Your Community Schools

1.

I want our community schools to have a comprehensive approach to teaching social and emotional skills.

2.

Learning is about more than grades. For success in the workplace, community, and life, learning social and emotional skills is at least as important as academics.

3.

Our kids won't be equipped for success in learning, work, and relationships without good emotional and interpersonal skills.

4.

My business needs employees with curiosity, empathy, imagination, purpose, and motivation. Those skills need to be taught early, in school.

5.

Social and emotional learning in schools also helps my working parents, because they know their kids are getting the skills and support they need, especially during the youth mental health crisis.

6.

My business is willing to support social and emotional learning in the same ways that business has supported STEM education.

10 Signs of Comprehensive SEL

CLASSROOM		Explicit SEL instruction	Students have consistent opportunities to cultivate, practice, and reflect on social and emotional competencies in ways that are developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive.
		SEL integrated with academic instruction	SEL objectives are integrated into instructional content and teaching strategies for academics, music, art, and physical education.
		Youth voice and engagement	Staff honor and elevate a broad range of student perspectives and experiences by engaging students as leaders, problem-solvers, and decisionmakers.
SCHOOL		Supportive school and classroom climates	Schoolwide and classroom learning environments are supportive, culturally responsive, and focused on building relationships and community.
		Focus on adult SEL	Staff have regular opportunities to cultivate their own social, emotional, and cultural competence; collaborate with one another; build trusting relationships; and maintain a strong community.
		Supportive discipline	Discipline policies and practices are instructive, restorative, developmentally appropriate, and equitably applied.
		A continuum of integrated supports	SEL is seamlessly integrated into a continuum of academic and behavioral supports, which are available to ensure that all student needs are met.
FAMILY		Authentic family partnerships	Families and school staff have regular and meaningful opportunities to build relationships and collaborate to support students' social, emotional, and academic development.
		Aligned community partnerships	School staff and community partners align on common language, strategies, and communication around all SEL-related efforts and initiatives, including out-of-school time.
COMMUNITY		Systems for continuous improvement	Implementation and outcome data are collected and used to continuously improve all SEL-related systems, practices, and policies with a focus on equity.

SOURCE: CASEL.



Our Mission: Get SEL Into All PreK-12 Classrooms by 2030

EQuip Our Kids! is a national nonprofit campaign raising needed awareness about and support for EQ life skills, especially among businesses and parents.

We don't offer or endorse a particular product or approach. Plenty of great products and practitioners already exist. Rather, we work to promote broad adoption of teaching social and emotional skills. We believe this is our opportunity—and yours—for greatest impact.

Founded by civic-minded media, business and social entrepreneurs with no financial stake in the outcomes, our goal is comprehensive EQ life skills instruction in every U.S. pre-K-12 classroom by 2030.

