Assessment of SEL: Considerations and Resources

Lindsay Read
Manager of Research

February 20, 2019

CASEL

Agenda

- Intro/review of SEL & SEL Frameworks
- Sharing of assessment resources
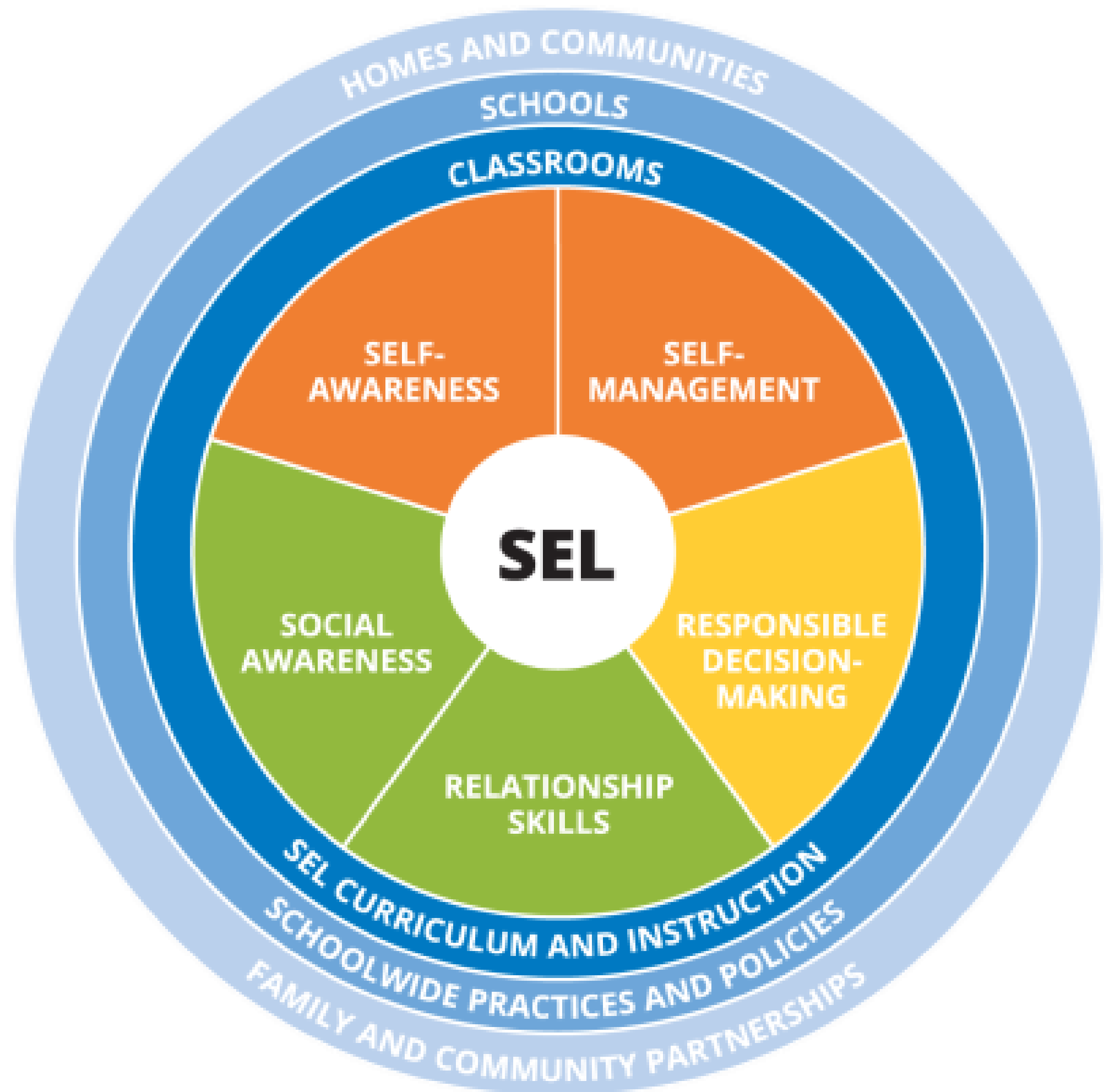- Walk through the SEL Assessment Guide
- Q&A
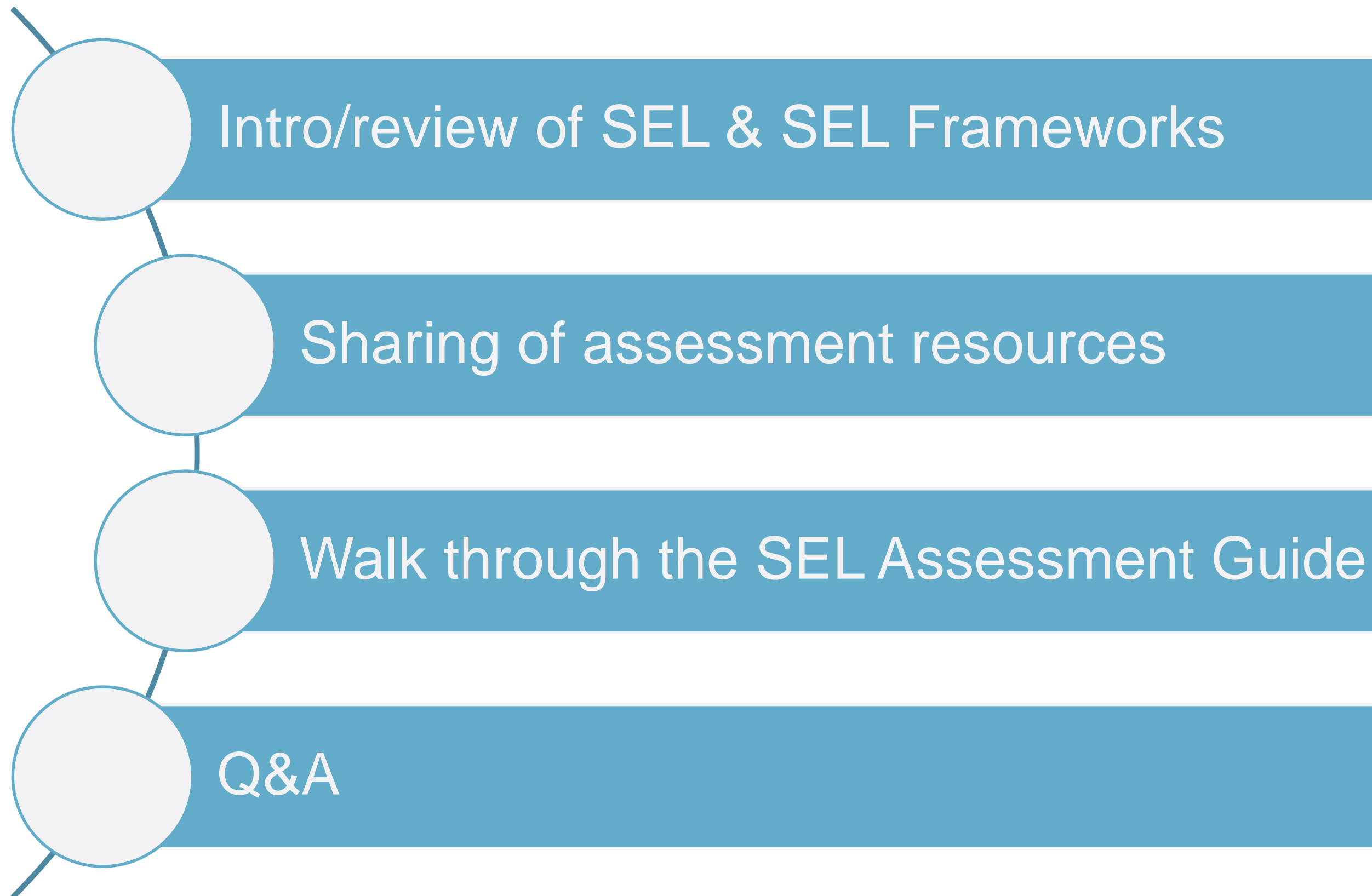
SEL is...

The process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Schoolwide SEL is…

a systemic approach to infusing social and emotional learning into every part of students' educational experience -- across all classrooms, during all parts of the school day and out-of-school time, and in partnership with families and communities. This approach provides a learning environment that integrates SEL into all aspects of instruction and promotes equitable outcomes for all students.

Framework

A tool that helps organize ideas in order to provide a foundation for thinking, communicating, and acting.

Learn more:
http://measuringsel.casel.or g/frameworks/

Frameworks are useful for:

✓ establishing a foundation and making important distinctions that help us organize and sort information.

✓ communicating evidence and priorities effectively with others.

✓ helping us focus, align, and mobilize our specific action efforts.

Why assess SEL?

Communicate SEL as a priority
It's often said, "what gets assessed gets addressed."

Establish a common SEL language
By choosing an assessment that aligns with the school's SEL framework, the school can establish and reinforce how SEL is described so the district, staff, students, and parents can better communicate about SEL.

Deepen understanding of how SEL competencies manifest in students over time
Through training, review of score reports, and careful data study and discussion

Continuously improve SEL instruction and implementation
Assessment for learning (formative)

Evaluate the effectiveness of programs
Assessment of learning (summative)

Support equitable outcomes in education
Assessment can help to reveal disparities in the degree to which students' needs are being supported by schools and districts.

Where does academic and behavioral data fit in?

GPA, attendance, chronic absenteeism, disciplinary rates, and graduation rates capture aspects of student behavior that may provide relevant information about SEL.

Data from these sources can be useful to examine alongside SEL assessment data, but they should not be interpreted by themselves as evidence of students' SEL competencies.

Introduction to the MeasuringSEL effort by the Assessment Work Group

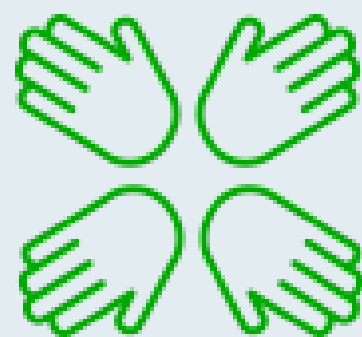# Measuring SEL - Assessment Work Group

Working in partnership to make key advancements in social and emotional (SE) competence assessment for PreK-12 students.
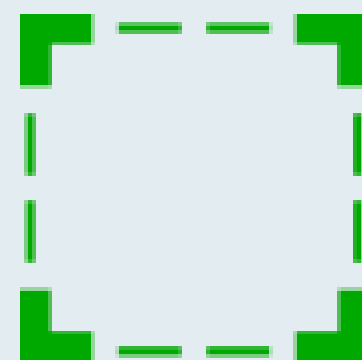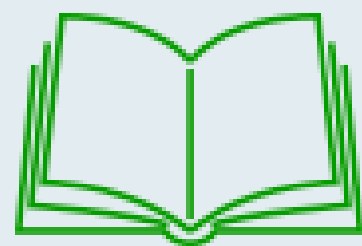
www.measuringsel.org

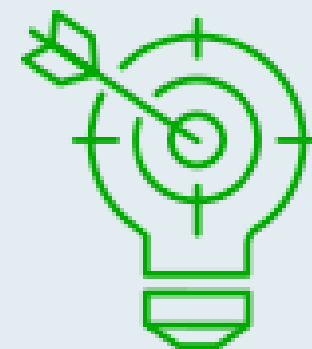# Goal Areas of the Assessment Working Group

Collaborator Network

Frameworks

Assessment Guide

Design Challenge

What is the Assessment Guide?

The Assessment Guide provides several resources for leaders and implementation teams in PreK-12th grade settings who are making decisions about selecting and using measures of student SEL. This includes guidance on how to select an assessment and use student SEL competency data, a catalog from which to select assessments, equipped with filters and bookmarking, and real-world accounts of how practitioners are using these data. Upcoming features include a platform to nominate measures for inclusion and a user forum for practitioners to ask questions and share their experiences.

What is in the Assessment Guide?

Part 1: Prepare to assess	Part 2 Select an Assessment	Part 3: Use the assessment data

- Getting started
  - What are SEL competencies?
  - Why assess SEL competencies?
  - Considerations for SEL competency assessment
- Step 1: Frame the overall effort
- Step 2: Plan the role of assessment
- Step 3: Chose the SEL competencies to assess

- Step 4: Review the assessment options

- Step 5: Select assessment tool(s)

- Step 6: Implement assessment

- Step 7: Use data

CASEL

Assessment Guide Walk-through

https://measuringsel.casel.org/assessment-guide/

Q&A

www.casel.org

Resources

SEL Assessment Guide: https://measuringsel.casel.org/assessment-guide/

Frameworks briefs on variety of topics: http://measuringsel.casel.org/frameworks/

Strength-based SEL blog post: https://measuringsel.casel.org/sel-assessment-must-be-strengths-based-but-what-does-that-mean/

Adult SEL self-assessment: https://schoolguide.casel.org/focus-area-2/learn/reflecting-on-personal-sel-skills/

Collaborating partner projects

RAND Assessment Finder: https://www.rand.org/education-and-labor/projects/assessments.html

Harvard Taxonomy Project: https://easel.gse.harvard.edu/taxonomy-project