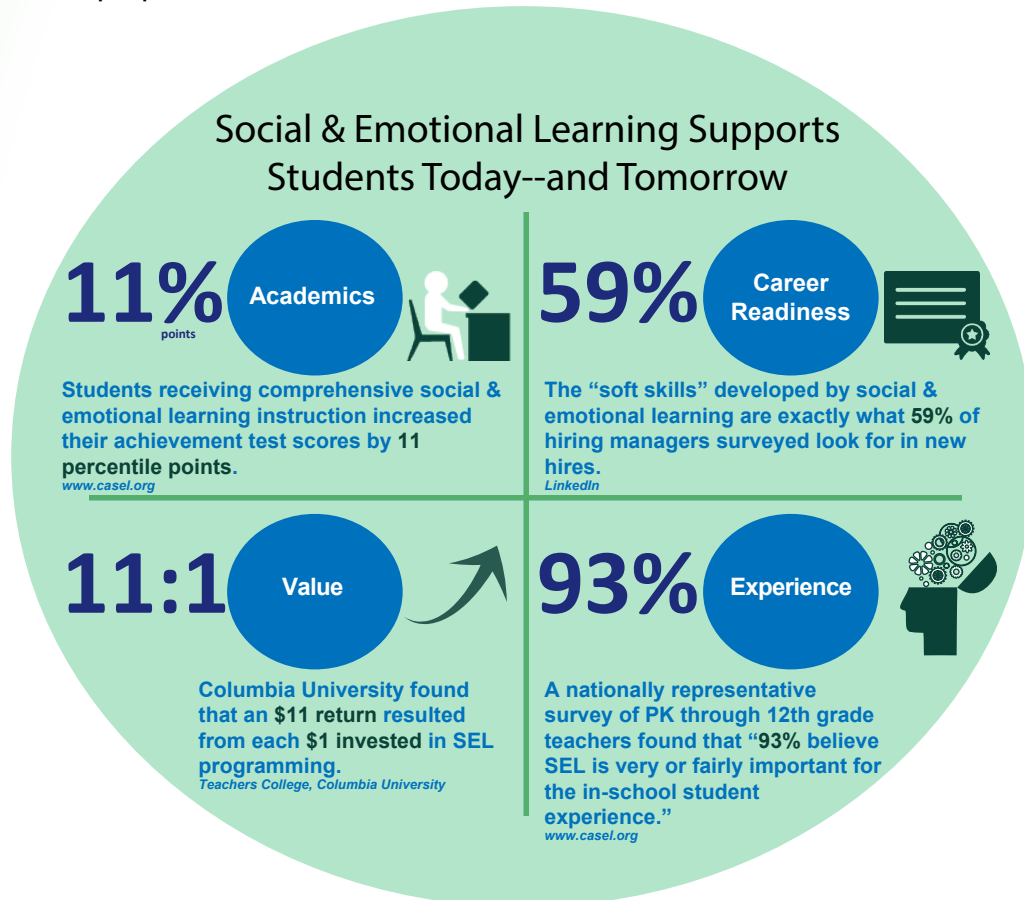




Social and Emotional Learning in Wisconsin PK-12 Schools



Making social and emotional skills part of the learning equation helps children succeed in school and life. With social and emotional skills, children can manage their feelings, build healthy relationships, and navigate social environments. When adults are supported by good policies and training, children develop the skills needed to prepare them for the world.



What Is Social and Emotional Learning?

Social and emotional learning (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.



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Pyramid Model

Wisconsin's Pyramid Model provides an evidence-based framework for developing social and emotional skills in infants, toddlers, and young children.

A 2016 evaluation that compared Pyramid Model PK-12 classrooms to non-Pyramid Model PK-12 classrooms found more statistically significant:

- Reductions in challenging behaviors
- Increases in social skills



Milwaukee Public Schools

As one part of their strategic plan, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has been engaged in the process of becoming a more trauma sensitive district. MPS has adopted SEL districtwide as one of the key trauma sensitive strategies, including Second Step in PreK–8th grade and Restorative Practices in grades 6–12. Through a series of video modules with companion activities, facilitated by school psychologists and social workers, all teachers have learned about trauma, universal trauma sensitive strategies, the CASEL framework, and instructional practices to support SEL.

Stanley-Boyd School District

The Stanley-Boyd School District is effectively integrating social and emotional learning into existing district-wide initiatives including PBIS and the School Mental Health Framework. Students receive implicit skill instruction through the use of the Second Step Curriculum in grades K-8. All students in the district are further supported by a trauma sensitive school environment.

Adams-Friendship School District

Students in Adams-Friendship are learning that they “feel good about themselves when they do positive actions.” Students in grades K-8 participate in the Positive Action Curriculum where they learn how to solve problems, make positive choices and decisions, set goals, and resolve conflict in positive ways. Using the Thoughts-Actions-Feelings Circle, students learn that “thoughts lead to actions and those actions lead to feelings about ourselves which in turn lead to more thoughts.”

Looking Ahead: Coming in 2017:



Wisconsin's Social and Emotional Learning Initiative is not a mandated program. The following resources will be available for local community consideration:

- State level competencies for grades PK-12.
- Implementation guidance and resources.
- Resources to implement SEL in high schools through integration with content instruction.
- An out-of-school program model to create a seamless transition for youth skill development that is consistent with in-school SEL programming.
- Resources and tools for parents supporting SEL at home.



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