

# August Resource Toolkit

## The Continuous Improvement Network



Welcome to the August Resource Toolkit, designed to guide and support your continuous improvement efforts. This toolkit coupled with our monthly theme will emphasize the elevation of anti-racist and anti-bias practices, the development of strong leadership, and the use of data-driven decision-making to improve core instructional practices within a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). Explore these resources to

enhance your continuous improvement initiatives and ensure equitable, high-quality education for all students.

### Focus: Social-Emotional Learning

Implementing a successful school improvement plan demands more than just academic rigor—it requires a holistic approach that nurtures the social and emotional well-being of all students. As schools across Washington gear up for the 2024-25 academic year, the imperative to integrate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into educational frameworks to assist progressive school culture should be paramount. Backed by state [mandates](#) and supported by extensive research, SEL isn't merely an option; it's a transformative Tier 1 supports that equips educators with the skills to cultivate inclusive, supportive classrooms where students thrive academically and emotionally. From trauma-informed practices to culturally affirming environments, SEL offers a comprehensive framework of strategies designed to empower educators and administrators alike. By embracing SEL, schools not only fulfill educational requirements but also pave the way for a future where every student feels valued, understood, and better prepared to succeed in both school and life.

Implementing Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) school-wide involves several key steps to ensure comprehensive and effective integration. Here's a streamlined approach along with guidance on how to identify the best SEL methods for your school:

**Step 1- Assess Current SEL Needs and Readiness:** Utilize tools like CASEL's School-wide SEL Walkthrough Tool or the OSPI SEL Self-Assessment Rubric to evaluate the current status of SEL integration in your school. Conduct surveys or focus groups with [teachers](#), students, and parents to understand perceived SEL needs and challenges.

Research indicates that when educators are provided comprehensive, job-embedded, and collaborative learning opportunities, they are better equipped to provide content-rich, culturally affirming learning environments and experiences for all students. [Strengthening Adult SEL](#)



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[Competencies & Capacity](#) will help staff understand their role in supporting students' social, emotional, and academic success.

**Step 2** - Establish Clear SEL Goals and Objectives: Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMARTIE) goals for SEL implementation.

Identifying SEL Methods: Select SEL methods that directly contribute to achieving your defined goals. Choose methods that align with your school's culture, values, and student demographics for better acceptance and engagement. For instance, if the goal is to reduce disciplinary issues, [restorative practices](#) paired with explicit SEL instruction might be an option. Explore newly implemented curricula or revisit existing curricula with all staff.

**Step 3** - Develop a Comprehensive Implementation Plan: choose or adapt an SEL curriculum that suits your school's needs and resources. Embed SEL into daily routines, classroom activities, and extracurricular programs to foster a consistent and supportive environment. Assess how well potential SEL programs align with your school's existing curriculum, teaching styles, and learning objectives. Intentionally integrating SEL practices into school settings, lesson planning, and professional learning will improve student attendance, engagement, and sense of belonging.

- Consider the [Washington State Learning Standards Review](#) as part of your professional learning day.
- Use the CASEL [SEL 3 Signature Practices Playbook](#) to strategically integrate SEL.
- [Seattle Public Schools 3 Signature Practices for Students and Adults](#) is a Washington version, for additional information, contact [Kai Kunkel, SEL Project-Program Manager, SPS](#)
- [Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship](#) paired with SEL helps students to be critical thinkers and promotes curiosity about messages they consume, create, and engage with through variety forms of communication.

**Step 4** - Provide Ongoing Professional Development and Support: Conduct regular workshops and training sessions for teachers and staff on SEL principles, practices, and implementation strategies. Establish peer learning communities where educators can share successes, challenges, and strategies related to SEL.

Identifying SEL Methods: Solicit feedback from educators to identify which SEL methods resonate most with their teaching styles and classroom dynamics.

SEL will not work without educating educators first! Break into smaller groups and explore this [Self-Assessment Tool for Educators](#). Explore the Washington State teacher preparation programs [Social Emotional Learning Implementation Brief](#) to create a team-driven approach of adult

capacity building of SEL. This benefits newer teachers, seasoned teachers while promoting commonality.

As part of continuous improvement cycles, districts can utilize the Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) to evaluate the effectiveness of SEL programs, practices, professional development, and student growth outcomes. The [Institute of Education Sciences](#) Toolkit provides strategic examples on how to use data to foster change, while increasing team decision-making protocols.

**Step 5 - Monitor Progress and Adapt Strategies:** Collect and analyze data on student behavior, academic performance, and socio-emotional outcomes to measure the impact of SEL initiatives through [student growth goals](#) or teacher evaluation data. Use this feedback loop to [refine and adjust SEL strategies](#) based on ongoing assessments and stakeholder feedback.

## SEL Support

If you are interested in learning more about the SEL, please contact Debra or Emme using the information below:

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Debra Parker	SEL Program Supervisor	<a href="mailto:debra.parker@k12.wa.us">debra.parker@k12.wa.us</a>
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## Conclusion

Integrating Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into your school improvement plan is essential for fostering a holistic educational environment where students can thrive both academically and emotionally. The August Resource Toolkit provides valuable resources and strategies to support this integration, emphasizing the importance of anti-racist and anti-bias practices, strong leadership, and data-driven decision-making within a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). By embracing SEL, we not only enhance academic rigor but also create inclusive, supportive classrooms that prepare students for success in school and life. Let's leverage these tools to ensure every student feels valued, understood, and equipped to achieve their fullest potential.