



**Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning**  
**Position Announcement: Director for Research Projects**  
**Posting Date: June 6, 2011 (Rev. 8.14.2011)**

**Organizational Summary:**

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of school-based social and emotional learning (SEL). CASEL's mission is to make social and emotional learning an integral part of education from preschool through high school. CASEL is now poised to dramatically expand its efforts and its organization. With committed and growing philanthropic funding and a new strategic plan, CASEL will endeavor to:

- Support breakthrough examples of systemic SEL in large school districts and socio-demographically diverse school districts across this nation
- Promote federal and state policies, including learning standards, that encourage academic, social, and emotional learning
- Build a research base for implementing district-wide SEL and develop tools to accelerate high-quality implementation nationwide
- Partner with SEL program providers, colleges of education, and professional organizations to support scaling of SEL
- Strategically communicate to foster widespread demand for SEL as an essential part of students' education at the school, district, state and national level

CASEL has a long history as a national collaborative, but as a newer not-for profit organization, it is also in a period of rapid growth. The staff supports the increased activities of the Board of Directors and various national working and advisory groups, manages research projects, provides training and technical assistance, develops new tools and methods for SEL implementation, and disseminates information from the field. The current work environment is fluid and fast-moving. For more information about our work, please visit: [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org).

**Position Description and Responsibilities:**

Reporting to the Vice President for Research, the Director for Research Projects will oversee multiple key research initiatives that are strategically designed to advance the SEL field. The Director will be held accountable for outcomes and responsibilities such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Collaborating on the review of evidence-based SEL programs and their evaluations and incorporating findings into updated, comprehensive online consumer guide for educational leaders
- Developing assessment instruments for school districts' use in assessing social and emotional learning, including formative assessments aligned to district and state learning standards

- Collaborating to complete the 50 state scan of SEL standards and the convening of expert panel to develop national model SEL standards
- Promoting adoption of SEL standards in select states
- Coordinating external evaluation of CASEL's collaborating district initiative
- Securing funding for additional research priorities, as agreed upon by CASEL leadership
- Supervising research specialists and other staff, as assigned by the Vice President for Research
- Managing and monitoring collaborative research agreements with several prominent North American universities.

## **Qualifications**

CASEL seeks a highly motivated individual with at least 8 years of accomplished professional experience, preferably in the fields of socio-behavioral science or education. The ideal candidate will have the following experience, expertise and skills:

- Doctoral degree is required, preferably in psychology, education or related field.
- Prior success in leading research or evaluation projects in schools
- Experience developing assessments and research measures
- History of securing significant public and private funding through grant-writing efforts
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to produce high-level summaries and briefings
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills, as well as experience in qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analysis
- Strong project management and organization skills
- Experience supervising and developing staff
- Commitment to the practices and field of social and emotional learning

The desire to work in a highly collaborative, entrepreneurial environment where taking initiative, working well in teams of internal and external colleagues, and perseverance in the face of challenges is a must.

## **Compensation**

CASEL seeks to maintain compensation packages competitive within the nonprofit and education sectors, commensurate with experience.

## **To Apply**

Please email a resume and thoughtful cover letter outlining how your skills and experience meet the qualifications of the position and stating how you heard about this opportunity to [careers@casel.org](mailto:careers@casel.org). Please include the position title in the subject line of your email message. We regret that we will not be able to respond to phone inquiries about this position.

*The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning is an equal opportunity employer. CASEL evaluates applicants for employment on the basis of qualifications, merit and work-related criteria without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical disabilities, pregnancy, medical condition, marital status or any other characteristic protected by law. CASEL employs and values a diverse work environment.*