



*District superintendents and CEOs from CASEL's [Collaborating Districts Initiative](#) share their insights about districtwide implementation of SEL in a new video.*

### **The Competencies of SEL**

“You’ve got to be able to work collaboratively; you’ve got to make good decisions; you’ve got to understand your surroundings and have an awareness of yourself and others.”—Traci Davis, Superintendent, Washoe County School District

“It’s really a set of competencies to help you manage relationships and solve problems.”—Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

### **SEL and Academic Performance**

“I would argue that social and emotional learning is absolutely essential to getting to the rigor of content that those who would say we should focus on reading and math really want us to get to.”—Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

“We would not be able to talk about the successes that we’ve made as a district had we not both solved for some of the academic challenges as well as some of the social challenges that our students face.”—Janice Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools

“At every level, the intentionality to really focus on how you’re getting all those relationships to be in alignment, it’s so important to create fertile soil for students to thrive and to be able to learn.”—Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District

### **Culture and Climate**

“Every child needs to have somebody that they connect with. They have to have a partner within that school.”—Krish Mohip, Chief Executive Officer, Youngstown City Schools

“It can’t just be about academics. If students don’t feel safe, they’re not going to be able to access the curriculum that we’re putting in front of them.”—Janice Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools

“Relationships are the entry point to learning so you really have to create those conditions for kids to feel connected to you as the teacher or any adult that’s there,

as well as well as other children.” — Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District

### **Outcomes in CDI Districts**

“When we started this [SEL] work, we had a graduation rate of 62 percent. Last year, we put up a record-breaking 84 percent.” —Traci Davis, Superintendent, Washoe County School District

“Over the last five years, our expulsions have been cut in half.” —Steve Chiaro, Superintendent, Warren City Schools

“We were suspending about 13,000 days of out-of-school suspension. We were 10 times the average for any school district in Ohio. And within that first year alone, we were able to reduce our out-of-school suspensions by 50 percent.” —Krish Mohip, Chief Executive Officer, Youngstown City Schools

### **Success in School and Beyond**

“We have all these organizations, we work with them and we say, ‘What are the skillsets you think our students should have as they exit?’ And while they talk about the academics, they also talk about these other essential qualities they need in an individual, and those lend themselves to the work we’re doing around SEL.” —Traci Davis, Superintendent, Washoe County School District

“It’s the tools that kids need to be resilient, to be problem-solvers, to be these deliberate thinkers that we want them to be, to be good people.” — Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

View the video [here](#).

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