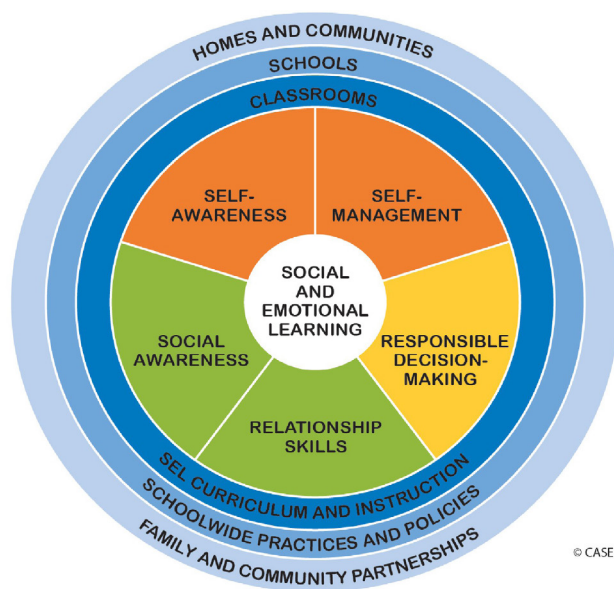


7 Steps for Choosing and Using SEL Assessments

Although 99% of principals are committed to SEL, only 17% know which competency assessments to use. In response, the Assessment Work Group has published a guide of quality measures, plus a seven-step plan for choosing and using the assessments.

1. FRAME THE OVERALL SEL EFFORT

Take a systematic approach that goes beyond the classroom and implements SEL schoolwide or districtwide. Adopt an SEL framework, such as CASEL's widely used five competencies. And develop a theory of change.



2. PLAN THE ROLE OF ASSESSMENT

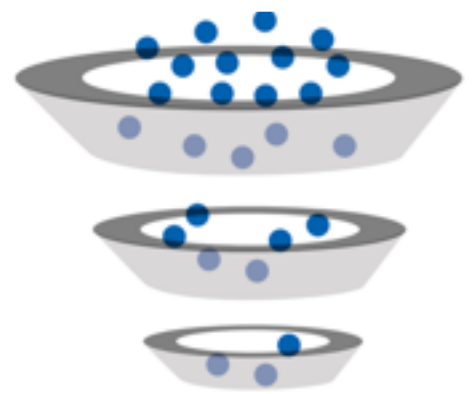
Will you use the assessment **formatively**, to help inform instruction or elevate student voice, for instance?

Or **summatively**, to evaluate and report on the impact of a particular SEL classroom program or practice?

3. CHOOSE THE SEL COMPETENCIES TO ASSESS

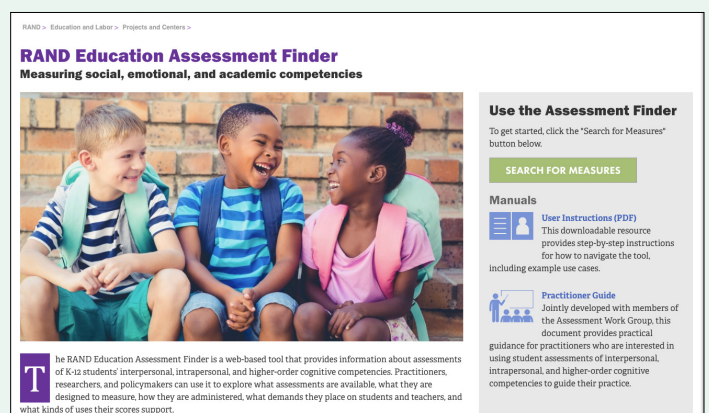
For instance, Transforming Education's 3Ms Framework asks if the competencies are:

- Meaningful (have an impact on long-term student outcomes).
- Measurable (can be assessed in a school setting).
- Malleable (can be developed in a school setting), based on existing literature from multiple fields).



4. REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

The [AWG SEL Assessment Guide](#) and the [RAND Assessment Finder](#) profile multiple measures.



5. SELECT ASSESSMENT TOOL(S)

Several practical factors may drive the choice of assessment:



Cost



Administrative and analytic capacity



Scalability



Reporting needs

6. IMPLEMENT ASSESSMENT

Be sure to:

- ✓ Establish clear roles and responsibilities.
- 🔍 Identify stakeholders.
- 📅 Determine the frequency and timeline for data collection and use.
- 🗣️ Communicate the purpose.
- ⚖️ Ensure that the assessment is accessible and bias-free.
- 🧑🏫 Provide training to staff.

7. USE DATA

Formative uses are **for** learning.

Summative uses are **of** learning.

Details in [The Assessment Guide](#), which includes guidance on choosing and using SEL assessments, a catalog of available measures, and real-world examples of SEL assessment in action.