INTRODUCING THE SEL EXCHANGE
The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) will host the inaugural Social and Emotional Learning Exchange on October 2, 3 and 4, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois. The theme of the conference will be Defining Quality in the Context of Innovation. This national gathering is a unique and timely opportunity for all those seeking to understand, experience, and apply the latest developments in social and emotional learning (SEL). The conference will help participants forge new alliances and gain new insights, empowering and inspiring their future efforts to ensure that education in America focuses on developing the whole child.

The field of social and emotional learning is in a phase of rapid expansion. The surge in demand for social and emotional learning strategies and practices is a powerful stimulant for innovation. This, in turn, calls for renewed clarity around what quality means, and what it looks like in different contexts and communities. With nationwide adoption of SEL in our sights, it has never been a more important moment for the field to insist on evidence-based strategies, practices, and programs to lift the rising generations of children to its full potential.

The organizing principle for the Social and Emotional Learning Exchange is “from the field, for the field.” In keeping with the collaborative values of the SEL community, CASEL seeks to create the platform for a co-designed conference, elevating topics and experiences with input from the field and partnering with thought-leaders who will design sessions and lift up work from across the country. As part of our commitment to equity, the Exchange will feature diverse views and voices and will fully embody the principles of SEL.

The objectives of the 2019 Social and Emotional Learning Exchange are to:

• Design collaborative opportunities for practitioners, scholars, and policy-shapers to work together on specific challenges.

• Gather leading experts to exchange knowledge on innovations in research, practice, policy, and communication.

• Equip change agents to create better, more equitable outcomes for all children at this pivotal time in history.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
The 2019 Social and Emotional Learning Exchange is for those who are committed to improving the way we design, implement, and support learning experiences for all children in this country. Conference participants will include state, district, and school leaders; classroom educators and other school and community-based practitioners; researchers; funders; parents; youth; and policy-shapers, such as civic leaders, advocates, and elected officials.
SEL EXCHANGE AGENDA
The SEL Exchange will take place over three days, beginning with a pre-conference day on Wednesday, October 2, that will offer extended Institutes led by field experts. The following two days will provide opportunities to hear from the field’s leading thinkers as well as inspirational educators, researchers, and young people; participate in engaging breakout sessions focused on high-quality and innovative practice, policy, research, and communication efforts; participate in experiential activities; interact with researchers and practitioners during poster sessions; enjoy topical performances; collaborate with attendees to grapple with crucial SEL challenges sourced from the field—and hang out with SEL friends in the Windy City!

DATES AND DETAILS
• Please read this Call for Sessions Guide in its entirety before submitting a proposal via the online submission form (link).
• Submissions are due by January 25, 2019, at 5 p.m. CT.
• Notifications of session selections will be made via email in mid-March 2019.
• Each presenter can submit and present in no more than two session proposals.
• Early-bird registration pricing of approximately $575 is guaranteed for all speakers.
• All presenters must be available October 3, 2019, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and October 4, 2019, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., as we are unfortunately unable to accommodate presentation time requests.

SEL EXCHANGE FOCUS AREAS
We invite proposals from across social and emotional learning domains and disciplines. Submissions should relate to one or more of the following focus areas:
• Practice—including efforts across classrooms, schools, districts, states, and out-of-school-time contexts
• Research
• Policy
• Communication
THE TOPICS
The theme of the conference is *Defining Quality in the Context of Innovation*. As the field expands, stakeholders are eager to learn about innovations that can increase SEL’s reach with quality, sustainability, and relevance in our changing world. Preference will be given to proposals that offer practice, research, policy, and communication insights that support systemic, evidence-based, equity-focused efforts and provide blueprints for how to implement and scale with quality. All session proposals that focus on creating and studying supportive learning environments and ensuring whole, healthy, and empowered educators and young people are welcome. We encourage submissions from connected fields, for example: school climate, whole-child education, 21st-century skills, character education, deeper learning, mindsets, positive youth development, prosocial education, and student-centered learning.

The online submission form offers the opportunity to select or propose any relevant topics. Based on input received from field stakeholders, social and emotional learning topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Advancing equity, for example, racial, gender, linguistic, socioeconomic, and immigration status
- Aligning related approaches and fields
- Assessment
- Effective communication approaches
- Educational leadership
- Effectiveness of programs
- Funding and budgeting
- Implementation science
- Innovations in evidence-based practices
- Integrating SEL and academics
- Integrating SEL into educator preparation programs
- Neuroscience of SEL
- Out-of-school-time and community-based partnerships
- Parenting
- Promoting adult SEL
- Student voice and activism
- Supportive discipline policies and approaches
- Technology and social media

CALL FOR SESSIONS GUIDE

**Event Details:**
**October 2-4, 2019**
*Pre-Conference: October 2*
Marriott Marquis
Chicago, IL

**Submission Deadline:**
January 25, 2019

Apply online ▶
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PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR BREAKOUT, INDIVIDUAL PAPER, AND POSTER SESSIONS

There are three types of submissions for presenting or leading a session at the SEL Exchange: (1) 70-minute breakout sessions with individual or multiple speakers; (2) Individual paper presentations; (3) Poster presentations.

1. 70-MINUTE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A breakout session is a topical, engaging session for approximately 50-75 participants that lasts 70 minutes. All breakout sessions will take place on October 3 or 4, 2019. Below is a checklist that mirrors the online submission form to help you prepare your proposal to lead a breakout:

- **Session Category:** Select the single focus area that is most applicable to your proposal and any secondary areas from practice, research, policy, and communication.

- **Session Topic:** Select the single topic from the list in the online submission form (also see page 3 of this guide) or indicate your topic if not listed.

- **Session Title** (20-word limit)
  - Example: Safe Learning Environments for All: One District’s Efforts to Ensure Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Transgender Teens

- **Session Summary/Abstract** (100-word limit): Succinctly describe the topic and design of the session. For sessions focused on the presentation of scholarly research, also describe the specific research questions and findings. This summary will be used in the SEL Exchange program.

- **Session Goals:** Specify at least two learning objectives for session participants.

- **Session Description** (500-word limit): Offer an expanded session description including a more detailed explanation of the topic, the proposed format, and how the session will engage participants, support adult learning, and model SEL strategies. If you are proposing a series of research presentations during the breakout session, compile and upload a brief abstract for each paper to be presented that includes the background, methods, and findings (limit of four abstracts of 250 words each).

Please consider using an engaging, dynamic format such as a workshop, no-tech or low-tech makerspace or lab, facilitated roundtable, world cafe, fishbowl, lesson simulation, ignite series, debate, unconference session, or short presentation with participant reactions and discussion. Combinations of the above are also welcome.

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1. Ethics considerations for presentations of scholarly work: By proposing to present at the 2019 Social and Emotional Learning Exchange, applicants are confirming that their work complies with the ethical standards that govern the university, research institute, or organization where the research was conducted and, if applicable, the study has been reviewed and approved by an institutional review board (IRB) or an equivalent research ethics review board.
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- **Applicability**: Indicate which grades/systems your session is most applicable to: pre-school, elementary (preK-5), middle (6-8), high (9-12), post-secondary, adult learning.

- **Logistics Information**: Indicate AV needs and room layout preference (will be accommodated as meeting space allows): theater, rounds, half rounds/crescents, other, no preference.

- **Presenter Information**: Name, title, organization, email contact, short biography for lead and other presenters (four presenters in total per breakout).

2. INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PAPER SESSIONS

Abstracts of individual research papers may be submitted for a 15-minute oral presentation. Individual papers will be grouped together based on a single topic or similar content within a 70-minute breakout session. A volunteer will facilitate an open discussion following the three oral paper presentations. All breakout sessions will take place on October 3 or 4, 2019. Below is a checklist that mirrors the online submission form to help you prepare your proposal to present an individual paper:

- **Paper Topic**: Select a single topic from the list in the online submission form (also see page 3 of this guide) or indicate if your topic is not listed.

- **Paper Title** (20-word limit)

- **Paper Abstract** (250-word limit)

- **Applicability**: Indicate which grades/systems your paper is most applicable to: pre-school, elementary (preK-5), middle (6-8), high (9-12), post-secondary, adult learning.

- **Presenter Information**: Name, title, organization, email contact, short biography.
3. POSTER SESSION

The poster session will offer an opportunity to visually display a presenter’s work (science-fair style!) and to have an individualized, informal discussion of the topic during an evening reception on October 3, 2019. Individual presenters will set up displays that show, in written and graphic form, their practice or research efforts. We invite two different types of poster presenters:

- **Educator Innovators**: Practitioners from schools, districts, and states will display and discuss SEL innovations they are leading in their learning communities.

- **Research Scholars**: Researchers will display and discuss their research on *SEL Exchange* topics. Early career scholars, such as graduate and post-doctoral researchers, are welcome to submit, as are senior researchers.

Below is a checklist that mirrors the online submission form to help you prepare your proposal to present a poster:

- **Presenter Category**: Select either Educator Innovator or Research Scholar.

- **Poster Topic**: Select a single topic from the list in the online submission form (also see page 3) or indicate if your topic is not listed.

- **Poster Title** (20-word limit)

- **Poster Summary/Abstract** (250-word limit)
  - **For Educator Innovators**: Describe the work that will be displayed through the poster and your primary talking points, including any data that indicates improved outcomes.
  - **For Research Scholars**: Submit paper abstract or describe the nature and significance of the topic, research methods, and findings.

- **Applicability**: Indicate which grades/systems your poster is most applicable to: pre-school, elementary (preK-5), middle (6-8), high (9-12), post-secondary, adult learning.

- **Presenter Information**: Name, title, organization, email contact, and short biography for poster presenter.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Sessions will be evaluated based on the criteria below. While focusing on innovation, sessions must remain grounded in tenets of high-quality SEL practice, research, policy, and communication and be clear about evidence of effectiveness, as appropriate.

Breakout Session Selection Criteria—Session proposals must:

• Be of high quality, topical, and relate to conference focus.
• Have clear and specific learning objectives with concrete takeaways.
• Have presenters with diverse perspectives.
• Have an engaging, participatory design that incorporates and models social and emotional learning best practices.

Individual Paper and Poster Selection Criteria—Paper and poster proposals must:

• Be of high quality, topical, and relate to conference focus.
• Present innovative practice efforts or research topics.

Practice-focused posters must be presented by an educator leading the work at the school, district, or state level. Research-focused posters and papers must be submitted by the author or a co-author of the research.

Guidelines for colleagues selling products: SEL curricula/program and assessment tool providers, as well as many other SEL-related product providers, are important and valuable contributors to our collective field. However, we request that you do not submit breakout and poster sessions that have the appearance of profiling specific products or services for the purposes of sales promotion. Quality research on tools and products are allowable. For organizations promoting a product/service, please apply to exhibit at the conference. The SEL Exchange will also provide opportunities for some providers to lead lesson simulations for conference participants who opt to learn more.

Exchange presenters are expected to use material and language that does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, ethnicity, religion, physical ability, and/or sexual orientation.