



**An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Research Associate-Learning Labs
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
Chicago, Illinois
Posting Date: January 2019**

Organizational Summary:

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, and a trusted source for knowledge about high-quality, evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL). CASEL's mission is to help make evidence-based SEL an integral part of preschool through high school education across the country. We are transforming American education through SEL by collaborating with leading experts and supporting districts, schools, and states nationwide to drive research, guide practice, and inform policy. Together, we are enabling all young people in our diverse society to lead healthier, happier, more productive, and fulfilling lives.

With committed and growing philanthropic funding and a cohesive strategic plan, CASEL is endeavoring to:

- Support the implementation and document the impact of systemic SEL in large school districts and socio-demographically diverse school districts across this nation.
- Capture, refine, and test the learnings to advance the research base for the process of implementing systemic SEL and share that knowledge broadly.
- Identify and evaluate interventions and assessment tools to accelerate high-quality implementation of SEL nationwide.
- Partner with SEL program providers, colleges of education, professional organizations, school districts, and researchers to support scaling of SEL.
- Promote federal and state policies that encourage academic, social, and emotional learning.
- Strategically communicate to foster widespread demand for SEL as an essential part of students' education at the classroom, school, district, state, and national level.

CASEL is overseen by a distinguished 10-member Board of Directors. They include Timothy P. Shriver (Chair), Ann S. Nerad (Vice Chair), Roger P. Weissberg (Vice Chair), Larry Aber, Stephen D. Arnold, Catherine Bradshaw, Deborah Delisle, Paul Goren, Kim Schonert-Reichl, and Andrea Wishom

Learning Labs Initiative:

CASEL's Learning Labs is an initiative aimed at identifying, implementing, understanding, and disseminating strategies that promote high-quality, systemic SEL in diverse school communities. Through Learning Labs, CASEL staff and educators create authentic research-practice partnerships with the goal of creating equitable learning environments and equitable social, emotional, and academic outcomes for students who are furthest from receiving these learning opportunities.

The initiative features small, intensive engagements with a subset of districts and/or states partners to co-construct and actively examine specific processes that support and reflect high-quality SEL implementation and produce desirable proximal student and adult outcomes. Through these engagements, we will learn about the most effective strategies for creating a classroom and school climate of inclusion, caring, belonging and academic excellence where students and adults are interested in and committed to healthy personal and group development and well-being.

Position Description and Responsibilities:

The Research Associate will work under the direct supervision of the Assistant Director of Research-Practice Partnerships and collaborate with the VP of Research and other research and practice team members. The person in this position will help to develop and implement various aspects of the Learning Lab work with our school, community, district and state partners.

The Research Associate-Learning Labs will support execution of our Learning Labs Initiative by:

- Documenting the processes for developing school- and district-capacity for sustaining an effective research-practice partnership within and across settings
- Examining the nature and deployment of implementation supports and the influences on implementation quality in classrooms, schools and districts
- Analyzing the impacts of implementation quality on social, emotional and academic outcomes for students and practitioners
- Assisting with the design, testing, and implementation of mixed-methods, and continuous improvement approaches, and resources in supporting our Learning Lab schools and districts with implementing systemic SEL
- Creating survey instruments, protocols, and/or reporting structures for our school/district sites
- Providing coaching and support to school/district staff throughout the project focusing on the use of data to inform practice and decision-making
- Interpreting data to provide feedback and support to schools/districts and states included in research
- Codifying knowledge (practices & content) and support the development of dissemination products (e.g., journal articles, white papers, and infographics)
- Performing other related duties and participate in special projects as assigned

Qualifications

CASEL seeks an individual who is highly motivated and committed to CASEL's mission. The ideal candidate will have the following experience, expertise, and skills:

- Background in education (highly preferred)
- At least a Master's degree in social sciences or education with quantitative and qualitative research skills, including experience designing program evaluation strategies and comfort interpreting results from statistical procedures
- Experience with statistical analysis software such as R, or SPSS
- Ability to critically assess challenges and identify flexible, effective solutions in ambiguous situations
- Strong creative instincts to develop new approaches, programs or initiatives with limited guidance and historical precedent
- Proven ability to overcome barriers and to establish and sustain constructive working relationships with fellow staff members and external partners
- Excellent project management skills, the ability to work independently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment and manage multiple responsibilities simultaneously
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a range of stakeholders and across organizations

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 **thoughtful cover letter and resume** outlining how your skills and experience meet the qualifications of the position and stating how you heard about this opportunity to 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.