



**An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Research Associate, Assessment
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Chicago, Illinois
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.

Position Description:

CASEL's Research Associate, Assessment, will play a significant role on the Continuous Improvement (CI) team at CASEL, focused on (1) the production, fine tuning, and dissemination of assessment and CI tools and resources and (2) analyzing the use of these tools and resources to identify and address remaining gaps in knowledge, and ultimately help schools, districts, and states improve the quality of their social and emotional learning (SEL). For example, the Research Associate will assist in efforts to disseminate the tools and resources produced by CASEL's SEL Assessment Work Group (e.g., the SEL Assessment Guide, practice briefs, and forthcoming State of the Field Report), integrate them into existing CASEL tools and resources, and play a major role in efforts to meet the needs of users. This position will also support the CASEL research team's broad efforts to advance the science and evidence-based practice of SEL in order to promote children's success in school and life. This includes, but may not be limited to:

- **Research and Analysis:** Perform data collection, and analysis to support CASEL research, continuous improvement, and/or assessment priorities; anticipate the data use needs of internal teams and external partners; take initiative to provide analysis that can support team decision-making; contribute to writing blog posts, grant reports, and communications to internal and external audiences.
- **Continuous improvement:** Support CASEL in building out its efforts to encourage schools, districts, and states to continuously improve their SEL activities. Lend critical thinking and collaborative skills to work with CASEL staff and partners to improve the quality of CASEL's assessment work (tools and resources, relationships), discover opportunities to foster alignment of assessment with SEL frameworks and curricula, forge new partnerships, broaden user base of CASEL's resources, and improve user experience.
- **Building knowledge base:** Engage CASEL's practice partners and resource users to identify the strengths and limitations of our current knowledge base related to assessment and continuous improvement. Work with the continuous improvement and broader CASEL research team to establish priorities for addressing gaps in knowledge, identify partners with whom CASEL may work to answer key research questions, and facilitate learning communities in which new strategies and tools will be tested, and gaps in knowledge will be filled.

Qualifications

- Master's degree and at least two year's work experience, preferred. Ideally with coursework in some or all of the following: research methods, educational psychology and/or policy, and child development.
- Familiarity with social and emotional learning, CASEL, and educational assessment
- Strong analytical and organizational skills
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Comfort with learning and utilizing technologies to support product development (e.g. WordPress), project management (e.g. Slack, Asana), and data collection and analysis (e.g. SurveyGizmo)

- Experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to work in a dynamic nonprofit work environment and juggle multiple priorities, with support of supervisor
- Enjoys taking initiative to solve problems, but is comfortable asking for help when needed

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.