The Districts
As of September 2019, CASEL is working directly with 20 partner districts, most of them large urban school systems.

- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Austin
- Baltimore City
- Boston*
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Dallas*
- Denver*
- DuPage County, IL
- El Paso
- Guilford County, NC
- Minneapolis
- Nashville
- Oakland
- Palm Beach County*
- Sacramento
- Tulsa*
- Warren City, OH
- Washoe County, NV

The Impact
To assess the impact of the CDI’s efforts, CASEL entered into an ongoing data collection and evaluation partnership with the districts and the American Institutes for Research (AIR). Data were collected to measure both the implementation of SEL and resulting outcomes.

Since implementation of the CDI, academic achievement has improved consistently in reading and math. Teachers have become more effective. Attendance and graduation rates are up. Suspensions and expulsions are down. Students feel safer and more connected to school. While the availability of data varied by district, qualitative and quantitative outcomes are promising. External evaluations also showed consistent year-to-year improvements in school culture and climate, as well as student outcomes.

**The bottom line:** Even very modest investments in SEL can pay off for individuals, schools, and society.

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**IMPROVED ACADEMICS**

- The three districts that use the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (Austin, Chicago, and Cleveland) all improved their reading and math scores during the CDI implementation years.

- In Anchorage, Austin, Chicago, Cleveland, Oakland, and Nashville, GPAs were higher at the end of the 2015 school year than before the CDI started. The improvements were particularly noticeable in Chicago, going from an average of 2.19 in the three years before the CDI to 2.65 in 2015, an increase of nearly 21%.

- Nashville, the only district with consistent standardized tests across the CDI years, showed improvements in both ELA and math achievement.

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*Indicates partner school districts participating in the Wallace Foundation’s Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning initiative, working with CASEL to strengthen SEL efforts between schools and afterschool programs.*
Telling the Stories of District Progress

Our 2017 report, *Key Insights*, summarizes the seven major insights emerging from the initial districts:

1. Systemic SEL is possible even with leadership changes and relatively small budgets.
2. SEL ideally is integrated into every aspect of the district’s work, from the strategic plan and budgets to human resources and operations.
3. SEL ideally is integrated into every aspect of the school, from classroom instruction to school climate and culture to community-family partnerships.
4. Successful implementation can follow multiple pathways, based on each district’s unique needs and strengths. Regardless of the approach, the engagement and commitment of both school and district leadership is essential.
5. Adult SEL matters, too.
6. Data for continuous improvement are essential.
7. Districts benefit from collaborating with each other.

Our bimonthly *SEL Trends* briefs feature examples of districts’ work in:

- Restructuring central office
- Integrating SEL with academics
- Empowering student voice
- Implementing SEL in higher-income districts
- Using data for continuous improvement

**IMPROVED BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES**

- Chicago’s graduation rate increased 15% during the CDI years.
- Attendance improved in four of six districts that collected this data.
- Suspensions declined in all five of the districts that collected this data.
- Districts also reported that students’ social and emotional competence improved, based on student and teacher surveys.

**IMPROVED SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

- School climate, as measured by district surveys in Chicago and Cleveland, improved during the CDI years. In Anchorage, climate began an upward trajectory before the CDI and sustained that same significant and positive growth during the CDI years.

**SUPPORTING DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION**

CASEL’s *District Resource Center* offers field-tested guidance, tools, and resources for SEL implementation throughout a district.