



CASEL Releases Guidance on Reopening and Renewing School Communities In Response to COVID-19

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) today published [*Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning As You Prepare to Reopen and Renew Your School Community*](#), which will help school leaders take action during this unprecedented shift in learning to ensure all students and adults can thrive. The new brief includes actionable recommendations to help school leadership teams plan for the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of all students and adults during the upcoming transition into summer and the beginning of the new school year.

While much uncertainty surrounds how and when schools will reopen, we know that SEL is critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. This shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on young people's academic, social, emotional, and life outcomes. School leaders will need to bring together administrators, teachers, school staff, families, youth, and community partners to co-create supportive learning environments where all students and adults can enhance their social and emotional competencies, feel a sense of belonging, heal, and thrive.

The guidance is organized around four critical actions, which are adapted from what we have learned about systemic SEL in collaboration with researchers and practitioners:

1. Take time to build partnerships, deepen your understanding, and plan for SEL.
2. Design opportunities for adults to connect, heal, and cultivate their own SEL competencies and capacities.
3. Create emotionally and physically safe, supportive, and engaging learning environments that promote all students' social and emotional development.
4. Use data as an opportunity to deepen relationships and continuously improve support for students, families, and staff.

This Friday, CASEL is hosting [a free webinar](#) with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) on this topic. CASEL is also working with many collaborators to produce comprehensive guidance, scheduled for release in late June, with additional recommendations, resources, and tools to help school leaders support and sustain SEL throughout and beyond the pandemic.

SEL is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

CASEL is the nonprofit that founded the field of social and emotional learning (SEL). Today, it collaborates with leading experts and districts, schools, and states nationwide to drive research, guide practice, and inform policy.

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