



An Invitation to apply for the position of
Director of Evaluation Research
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
Chicago, Illinois
August 2020

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning is seeking a Director of Evaluation and Research to lead and develop the evaluation and research initiatives of CASEL, the leading authority in the rapidly expanding field of social and emotional learning. This position works with the champions of the SEL field and holds a key role in the organization that is working to ensure equitable education outcomes for every child.

Working under the supervision of the Vice President of Research and in close collaboration with the Director of Research Practice Partnerships, CASEL's Director of Evaluation Research will develop, lead and supervise CASEL's evaluation research initiatives. These efforts are designed to evaluate and guide refinement of CASEL's tools, resources and professional learning offerings. The work is aimed at supporting consistency and coherence in products and processes, and to document influences and impacts on participating states, districts and school communities. The Director will supervise designated research staff and work closely with Directors across CASEL to ensure clarity and efficiencies in this and related work streams.

The Director of Evaluation Research will lead activities and initiatives designed to advance the organization's internal continuous improvement efforts. This includes the critical examination of the quality of the content, uptake, application and implementation quality of CASEL tools and resources such as the program guide, assessment guide, the school guide and district resources center. The Director will also lead efforts to document the perceptions and experiences of participants in CASEL professional learning offerings (trainings, convenings, conferences) and to track subsequent efforts and influences of state, district and school partners efforts to enact policies, programs, and practices. These learnings derived from these efforts will be synthesized to contribute to ongoing knowledge-building for CASEL, our partners, and the field.

The Director of Evaluation Research will continue to help test and refine CASEL's tools and resources and provide consultation and technical assistance to a cadre of stakeholders, co-develop learning agendas for state, district and collaborator convenings and represent CASEL at professional meetings. The Director will also work with CASEL's Chief Knowledge Officer and various team leads (i.e., research, practice, policy, communication, and operations) as needed to ensure clarity, alignment and coordination among CASEL staff and in work with external partners.

The Director will:

- Collaborate with the Research and Evaluation team on the design and management of CASEL's national evaluation research agenda at the level of states, districts and school communities.

- Lead, coordinate and collaborate in the evaluation of CASEL’s resources and tools used in the Collaborating Districts Initiative (CDI) and the Collaborating States Initiative (CSI), and recommend technical assistance to partner districts and networks.
- Direct and oversee all phases of the SEL program guide projects, including re-conceptualization, data collection, analysis, and report writing.
- Lead and support the development and dissemination of professional papers and presentations.
- Collaborate with districts and states to secure funding for additional research priorities, as agreed upon by CASEL leadership.
- Lead and manage a team of Research Associates and Research Fellows.
- Assume other research and evaluation duties as needed/assigned.

The Director of Research and Evaluation must have a proactive collaboration style, a demonstrated commitment to equity, and a track record of consensus building among stakeholders. Other qualifications include:

- Expertise in social and emotional learning and education research and evaluation.
- Previous experience leading or co-leading an action research project.
- Experience with mixed methods approaches to basic and/or applied research
- Experience supervising a team, including managing performance and reviewing progress against goals.
- Excellent written communication skills, and experience writing for multiple audiences, including practical briefs for educators, technical education policy documents, and peer-reviewed research journals.
- Clear communication and strong public speaking skills.
- Outstanding project management, organizational, and computer skills.
- Flexible, proactive, resilient, solutions-oriented and dedicated to continuous improvement.
- A collaborative spirit and ability to direct multiple complex streams of work.
- Bachelor’s degree required; graduate degree or equivalent professional experience preferred, preferably in psychology, education or a related field.

CASEL seeks an individual who is highly motivated and committed to CASEL’s mission. The Director of Development must have a proactive collaboration style, a demonstrated commitment to equity, and a track record of consensus building among stakeholders. A background in SEL and/or education is a plus; a deep interest in SEL is a must.

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.

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume that includes references to careers@casel.org. Please include the position title in the subject line of your email, and in your cover letter, mention where you heard of this position.