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Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative

Participating States and Texas Schools (Appendix, #1)

* The participating states are California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Washington, with an additional 11 states having applied.

*Forty (40) states overall expressed interest in this effort to participate, develop and implement K-12 standards in "social-emotional learning" (SEL).

*The initiative is being led by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). ***Tennessee and Georgia had originally applied but withdrew from the CASEL initiative after parents and legislators raised concerns.***

***In Texas, CASEL has partnered with Austin ISD and El Paso ISD; Dallas ISD has begun SEL program, Round Rock ISD is reviewing implementation, Houston ISD has an SEL program, and other TX ISD's are reviewing for their schools.**

What is Social Emotional Learning? (Appendix, #2)

- "The process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions."
- Essentially, a focus not on teaching academic content, but affective and non-cognitive attitudes, values, beliefs, behaviors on developing government-approved mindsets and attitudes – intrusion into the privacy of children and the prerogatives of parents.
- Idea is to improve "school climate," a term that U.S. Department of Education and progressive-education allies used many times to describe creating LGBT accommodation.
- The National School Climate Center [NSCC] says they are educating minds and hearts...Because the three R's are not enough.

Examples of SEL Curricula (Appendix, #3)

Concerns expressed by an Austin ISD Elementary Teacher:

"The week before the 2015-2016 school year began, teachers at my school received six hours of LGBT training through the Welcoming Schools program. In the past nine years, we had received many professional development sessions in literacy, math and science. But in 2015-2016, **there were no academic trainings, Welcoming Schools had replaced these.**"

- **Welcoming Schools - Human Rights Campaign** - largest "lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender" lobbying group in the United States by their own words, they are a Washington-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual advocacy group working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Americans.

- - teacher modules and curriculum teach beauty of homosexual love, students as gender neutral, watching videos promoting this choice, how to describe these issues to children, approved and unapproved speech, lessons to implement in classroom, LGBT-Inclusive Children's Books and Books about Gender Roles

- *From their Manual: "In many states there are specific regulations for parental notification when the school curriculum addresses sexuality. However, when educators discuss family diversity, it is family — children's families — that is being discussed."*

- **Second Step - and School-Connect** - Empathy is woven throughout these curriculums and lessons have same categories for each grade level, but build upon each year and becomes more intrusive regarding diversity training.

School-Connect Curriculum – "In being required to provide evidence for their positions and consider other perspectives, they strengthen, *modify, or reverse their current understandings and beliefs*"

In sample lesson module 3 - "Debunking the Myth of Womanhood and Debunking the Myth of Manhood" -

"The pressure on young men summed up as The Three B's: Ball Field (athletic performance), Billfold (money), and Bedroom (also known as Bravado)...Many boys feel pressured to live up to these expectations and feel inferior when they don't. This drive for competition, conquest, and not showing weakness, can undermine essential SEL skills like empathy, identifying and expressing emotions, and apologizing and forgiving. Such emotional disconnect can ultimately lead to unsatisfactory friendships and relationships and a greater propensity for violence, sexual aggression, health risks, and not seeking help."

"A growing body of research suggests that resistance or nonconformity to gendered norms can increase males' psychological and social wellbeing". This lesson challenges boys and girls to question cultural norms and redefine what makes a man great and what characteristics make a person a better friend, spouse, and citizen."

- **Mindfulness Meditation** -

- Mindfulness Meditation is an adaptation from traditional Buddhist meditation practices, especially Vipassana.

- *From the Austin ISD SEL Blog October 19, 2015*-"Early on a weekday morning, we step into a group meditation session. The space is silent except for the soft whisper of breath flowing in and out of 16 four-year-olds seated on the floor all around, each deep within his or her own experience. After allowing enough time for this morning quietude to fully engulf the collective consciousness, the instructor gently invites the group of children to transition from stillness into a series of yoga poses—connecting the internal to the external, raising the energy of the space, preparing minds and bodies for today's learning. Where were we just then? In a remote monastery, high in the Himalayas? Wait a second...this is the Austin ISD Social and Emotional Learning blog! We were in Pre-Kindergarten classroom at Gullett Elementary, right here in ATX!"

- Calm App used to train teachers in meditation and for use in classroom which walks you through breathing and mental imagery saying, " This makes us more tolerant and less judgmental, empty your mind of all thoughts, and makes claims of healing medical diseases and healing rooted emotional pain."

- **Morningside Center**

- **GLSEN Lessons**

Organizations Creating and/or Funding S E L Programs- Partial List (Appendix, #4)

***What is the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)?**

- CASEL Lobbies State Legislatures and Congress to have states implement SEL into their education policy.
- Chicago-based nonprofit organization with the mission “to help make evidence-based [SEL] an integral part of education from preschool through high school”.
- Board of Directors includes Linda Darling-Hammond, radical education theorist who led Pres. Obama’s education transition team and was touted by admitted terrorist professor Bill Ayers as the best choice for U.S. Secretary of Education.

Who funds CASEL and SEL programs?

- **NoVo Foundation**, which seeks to break cycles of “domination, competition, and exploitation.” Focuses on improving school climates by “re-imagining school structures” and is part of a “five-year philanthropic initiative focused on improving the lives of transgender people worldwide”.
- **1440 Foundation**, which teaches yoga, Buddhist “mindfulness”.
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, which promotes socialized medicine and alarmism on climate change.
- **The federal government**, through Institute of Education Sciences.

Proponents for SEL (Appendix, #5)

- In 2011 Secretary Arne Duncan said the U.S. Dept of Education will work with organizations such as CASEL to ensure that schools are creating a strong SEL foundation.
- U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan, D-Ohio - House Appropriations Committee —promotes SEL and Mindfulness, introduced legislation in 2011 and 2013 to fund teacher and principal training and school-wide programs in SEL, in 2015 before the vote to replace No Child Left Behind with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), he said, **“I believe there is a new way of educating our kids emerging here, there is a new Common Core developing.”**
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**, the test referred to as “the nation’s report card,” to assess mindsets and school climate.
- **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grants** - USED promotes SEL standards and datagathering on preschool children.
- **Strengthening Education Through Research Act (SETRA)**—a bill supported by individuals and corporations that would profit from all this sensitive data.
- **What once was free and inherently taught will now cost the taxpayer billions of dollars** while students are manipulated to alter: beliefs, values, world views, forced to take psychological assessments, and provide personal data for tracking databases.

Surveys, Data, and Assessments (Appendix, #6)

- ***Concerns expressed from an Austin ISD teacher regarding SEL surveys:***
"I heard many teachers say that they did not teach the SEL with fidelity. Their reasons varied, either there was not enough time or they were just trying to finish academic requirements. Some of the teachers even objected to the content."

Even as teachers are required to fill out "confidential" surveys of their SEL activities, they are reminded that the principals can read their responses. This causes many teachers to make false claims on the surveys. In one instance, I know of one teacher who taught approximately two months' worth of lessons over a span of 4 years. **What ends up happening is the District uses the surveys that shows SEL is working and increasing student performance, which gives the appearance of success.**

For the first time in 2015-2016, as early childhood teachers, we had to assess a long list of social skills including pre-math and pre-reading. We discussed among ourselves why these personal questions (i.e. Does the child become angry without hurting others? Is the child able to express his needs to teacher verbally?) were necessary. The lengthy assessments would take valuable time away from planning for academics. We were also concerned that a student could be greatly affected by the findings because it becomes a permanent part of his academic record and labeling a student so young could be damaging to a teacher-student relationship."

- **The Texas Education Agency** has a "Survey Data in Accountability and Evaluation Systems" Manual dated February, 2016.

-It was created to obtain feedback from the districts via regional Education Service Center directors regarding using surveys to collect additional non- academic outcomes in the accountability rating system. ***This includes statewide standard surveys to measure culture climate, social emotional factors and learning skills, CASEL and SEL Core Competencies.***

- "This violation of both privacy and freedom of conscience is an alarming effort to standardize children, who normally develop at very different rates and in very different ways, to fit government-determined norms. The government has no right to collect data on any child's "character strengths," which are the most personal aspects of a child's psyche.
If such psychological data resided in a psychologist's office, it would be protected by HIPAA. Would it be similarly protected if located in a school's database? No. It would probably be considered merely an "education record" subject to (not protected by) federal student-privacy law." - Dr. Karen R. Effrem, pediatrician and president of Education Liberty Watch

- "...under whose authority does the government presume to instill attitudes that may conflict with parents' desires? Assessment and development of students' social and emotional skills is risky business. What kind of training will teachers or other school personnel have for this responsibility? Psychologist Dr. Gary Thompson points out the extremely sensitive nature of evaluating children's social-emotional makeup and warns about having inadequately trained personnel implementing plans designed to alter students' psyches." - Jane Robbins, attorney and senior fellow with the American Principles Project

Alternatives to SEL (Appendix, #7)

- Teach Golden Rule throughout the day
- Approved Character Education with State provided clear guidelines for Character Education and Mental Health
- Stretching exercises, Recess time, Moment of Silence to aid in focus skills
- ***Four minutes of physical activity** - Dr. Brendon Gurd, lead researcher and professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queens University, said four minutes of physical activity can improve behavior in the classroom for primary school students, and he and his team created the series of four-minute activities that students could complete in small spaces with no equipment.

- Human Sexuality Instruction should go through an open and transparent approval process
- Parental Notification and Opt-Out of controversial curriculums and lessons
- More parental involvement with SHAC committees and school boards

Appendix

Social-Emotional Learning Standards Initiative

1. Participating States and Texas Schools -

***Collaborative States** - <http://www.casel.org/collaborative-state-initiative/>

***Tennessee and Georgia withdraw** - <http://missourieducationwatchdog.com/is-your-state-or-district-participating-in-casels-emotional-standards-two-states-have-already-dropped-out/>

***Austin ISD** - <http://www.casel.org/partner-districts/austin-independent-school-district/> - Not sure of the total costs, but Austin ISD stated in their Department of Research and Evaluation, Publication 15.73, October, 2016 that they are publicly and privately funding SEL and since 2010-2011 \$3.8 million has been donated by individuals and foundations which include NoVo Foundation.

Department of Education highlighted AISD as an example for educational communities in a grant guidance report for SEL. AISD has developed SEL for ALL of its 83,600 students focused on four core practices: skills instruction, integration, school climate and culture, family and community engagement. - <https://austinisdselfblog.com/2016/11/01/sel-its-a-big-data-deal/>

***El Paso ISD** - https://www.episd.org/public_relations/news_detail.php?id=2510

***Dallas ISD** - <https://thehub.dallasisd.org/2016/09/12/more-schools-embrace-social-and-emotional-learning-to-develop-the-whole-child/>

***Round Rock ISD** - <https://roundrockisd.org/departments/schools-and-innovation/social-emotional-learning/>

***Houston ISD** - <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/153364>

2. What is SEL?

***Defined** - <http://www.casel.org/social-and-emotional-learning/>

***What is SEL about?** -

- <http://townhall.com/columnists/janerobbins/2016/08/08/the-latest-big-education-fadsocial-emotional-learning-is-as-bad-as-it-sounds-n2202205>

- <http://www.educationviews.org/texas-schools-rush-new-common-core/>

- <http://thefederalist.com/2016/08/08/tennessee-to-create-safe-spaces-in-k-12-schools/>

***Another name MESH-**

- <http://coredistricts.org/social-emotional-learning-efforts/>

- <http://www.transformingeducation.org/blog/mesh-equity>

***What is meant by "school climate"?** -

- <http://www.schoolclimate.org/about/history.php>

- <http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/>
- <http://blog.ed.gov/2013/02/ensuring-safe-schools-for-lgbt-youth/> - "As I [Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary of education] addressed the conference, I asked the individual educators to do four things to help improve the school experience of our LGBT youth.
 - Create positive **school climates** for all students – this happens only through a deliberate, school-wide effort, and with the participation of families and communities.
 - Be proactive and visible to LGBT youth – they cannot know they are supported, valued, and appreciated, if the adults in the building aren't there to tell them so.
- Identify 'safe spaces,' such as counselors' offices, designated classrooms, or student organizations, where LGBT youth can receive support from administrators, teachers, or other school staff.
- Encourage student-led and student-organized school clubs that promote a safe, welcoming, and accepting school environment (e.g., gay-straight alliances, which are school clubs open to youth of all sexual orientations).
- Understand student mental health issues. Everyone can play a role here; not only school counselors or nurses, but teachers and administrators that can identify warning signs, like sudden changes in behavior.
- And importantly – they are not alone. While educators play a critical role in providing support to LGBT youth, they can build partnerships with local health and mental health agencies, community based organizations, and child welfare. And, there are federal resources to provide guidance and information on how to make schools safe, supportive, and inclusive. For example, check out www.stopbullying.gov."
- - <http://invisibleerfscollar.com/?s=Social+Emotional+Learning&submit=Search>

3. Examples of SEL Curricula -

***Welcoming Schools Curriculum by Human Rights Campaign -**

- <http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/lesson-plans/>
- <http://www.projectcornerstone.org/pdfs/IntroWelcomingSchools.pdf> (pg. 17 & 18 how to deal with parental notification) (pg. 19 They say they respect religious values, but if this were true then why would an entire school curriculum be written by an organization whose mission is to advocate and lobby for the LGBT agenda and why would there be a bypassing of parental notification where sexuality issues are addressed and instead call it family diversity?)
- <http://www.hrc.org/hrc-story/about-us> , <http://www.hrc.org/campaigns/support-the-equality-act> , <http://dailysignal.com/2015/07/23/how-so-called-equality-act-threatens-religious-freedom/>
- <http://www.childstudysystem.org/welcoming-schools.html>
- <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/03/marriage-what-it-is-why-it-matters-and-the-consequences-of-redefining-it>

***Second Step –**

- <http://www.cfchildren.org/second-step/social-emotional-learning/school-climate-and-sel>

***School-Connect** -

- <http://www.school-connect.net/pdf/module/ResearchBase3.pdf> (Pg. 7 & 8 Debunking the Myth of Womanhood and Manhood)
- <http://www.school-connect.net/module-descriptions.html>

***Mindfulness Meditation** -

- <http://secondaryguide.casel.org/mindfulness-program-descriptions.html>
- <http://liveanddare.com/types-of-meditation/>
- <https://austinisdseblog.com/author/kfcameroneil/page/2/> - October 19, 2015 post
- <https://www.austinisd.org/academics/sel/educators>
- <https://austinisdseblog.com/2015/10/19/preknamaste/>
- <https://www.calm.com/>
- <http://www.mindful.org/free-mindfulness-apps-worthy-of-your-attention/>
- **Dangers** related to mindfulness/vipassana meditation -
- * <https://morespiritualmatters.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/the-10-day-vipassana-retreat-a-warning/>
- * <http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/69309196/the-hidden-dangers-of-meditation-andmindfulness>
- * <http://goodtimes.sc/uncategorized/yogis-behaving-badly/>
- * <https://www.bustle.com/articles/73493-the-6-biggest-yoga-scandals-from-bikram-choundry-tolululemon>

***<http://www.casel.org/guide/>**

***State Learning Standards**

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/513f79f9e4b05ce7b70e9673/t/528bda47e4b01f10c845b8cc/1384897095397/state-learning-standards-to-advance-social-and-emotional-learning.pdf>

"Download a brief from 2011 that describes how CASEL and the University of Illinois at Chicago SEL Research Group conducted the initial scan of state SEL standards."

- * <http://transformingeducation.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=48e838a6bdda9bc5cd2393a1c&id=86e48ad49b&e=21e5c22b8d>
- " August 2015 article on how to implement the Illinois state standards on early learning and child development to affect social and emotional learning in the classroom."

***Morning Side** - A national leader in the field of social and emotional learning (SEL) –

- <http://www.morningsidecenter.org/about>
- <http://www.morningsidecenter.org/teachable-moment/lessons/back-school-quiz-what-world-did-over-summer>

* **LGBT Lessons** - <https://www.austinisd.org/respectforall/lgbt-resources>

- <http://www.glsen.org/educate/resources/creating-lgbt-inclusive-lessons>

-<https://austinisdselfblog.com/category/pride/>

*** Anti-Defamation League-**

-<http://www.adl.org/press-center/c/anti-bias-education-the-power-social-emotional-learning.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/#.WCfC7SMrL1w>

-http://www.adl.org/civil-rights/discrimination/c/adl-and-the-lgbt-community.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/#.V9MJy_krKUK

"The Anti-Defamation League has a longstanding commitment to protecting civil rights, and has been a key partner in advancing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) rights. At the federal, state, and local levels, ADL has advocated in support of anti-discrimination statutes, for strong and inclusive hate crime and bullying prevention laws, and for marriage equality. In addition, as one of the nation's preeminent producers of educational and training resources to address bias and prejudice, ADL's educators and trainers have integrated inclusive resources in our anti-bias training for schools, universities, corporations, and community organizations throughout the United States and abroad."

***The four approaches to implementing SEL in your school -**

<http://www.casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CASELBrief-WhatDoesSELLookLikeinPractice-11-1-15.pdf>

***Effort led by Dr. Karen Effrem in Florida to stop PsychoSocial Manipulation of Curriculum in Florida** - <http://www.flstopccoalition.org/files/45ACDEA5-46D6-408B-9934-4D8BE4B74449--DAC55B36-D2EE-432B-B3FE-EB00D6904E49/psychosocial-manipulation-in-the-commoncore-standards-and-aligned-tests-and-curriculum.pdf>

- **Gender Ideology Harms Children** - <https://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children>

4.Organizations Creating and/or Funding S E L Programs (Partial List)

***What is CASEL?** - <http://www.casel.org/about/>

<http://www.casel.org/people/linda-darling-hammond>

<https://billayers.org/2008/12/27/vote-me-for-secretary-of-education/>

"Of course I would have loved to have seen Linda Darling-Hammond become Secretary of Education in an Obama administration. She's smart, honest, compassionate and courageous, and perhaps most striking, she actually knows schools and classrooms, curriculum and teaching, kids and child development. . . . So I would have picked Darling-Hammond, but then again I would have picked Noam Chomsky for state, Naomi Klein for defense, Bernardine Dohrn for Attorney General, Bill Fletcher for commerce, James Thindwa for labor, Barbara Ransby for human services, Paul Krugman for treasury, and Amy Goodman for press secretary. So what do I know?

Darling-Hammond would not have been a smart pick for Obama. She was steadily demonized in a concerted campaign to undermine her effectiveness, and she would surely have had great difficulty getting any traction whatsoever for progressive policy change in this environment."

*Who funds CASEL?

-<http://www.casel.org/funders/>

-**(NoVo Foundation)** - <http://novofoundation.org/about-us/faqs/>

-<http://novofoundation.org/advancing-social-and-emotional-learning/strategic-approach/>

"SEL will play a significant role in shifting our culture of systemic inequality and violence toward a new ethos ...SEL aligns directly with NoVo Foundation's intention to nurture a new generation that will break cycles of competition and domination, employing skills and motivation to build a more equitable, cooperative, and just world."

<http://www.arcusfoundation.org/arcus-novo-foundation-announce-groundbreaking-philanthropy-initiative-to-improve-lives-of-transgender-people/>

"The Arcus Foundation, a global foundation dedicated to the idea that people can live in harmony with one another and the natural world, and the www.novofoundation.org, one of the world's largest private foundations supporting efforts focused explicitly on girls and women, today announced a five-year philanthropic initiative focused on improving the lives of transgender people worldwide."

- **(1440 Foundation)** -<http://1440foundation.org/>

<http://1440foundation.org/how-we-work/connecting-to-ourselves/>

"Projects in this area focus on the general field of whole person development and more specifically on contemplative education, social and emotional learning, and mental and neurological fitness.

-Helped to create CALM app used to train teachers to teach Mindfulness Meditation in schools starting in Pre-K

-They fund contemplative education, Mindful Schools.

<http://1440foundation.org/awards/the-toolbox-project/>

The Toolbox Project: A research based, community-tested, social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum that fosters the development of resilience, self-mastery, and empathy in K-6 students and beyond

"The 12 Tools are: The Breathing Tool; A Quiet/Safe Place; Listening; Empathy; Personal Space; Using Our Words; Garbage Can; Taking Time; Please & Thank You; Apology & Forgiveness; Patience, and Courage Tools. For example The Breathing Tool, will utilize a breathing pacer to track and diagram how lungs expand and contract. It will track usage and time to encourage use and conscious participation and collaboration within the family. Studies on heart rate variability, primarily driven by breath rate, demonstrate powerful physiological relaxation from breathing at a rate between 5 – 6 breaths per minute. Designed for inner development, these tools provide a proven and systematic method for increasing self-awareness, authentic communication, fostering safety and trust, and development of emotional resilience in family members, parents, and their children."

- **(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)** -<http://www.rwjf.org/>

http://www.rwjf.org/en/culture-of-health/2012/10/the_commodification.html

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/search-results.html?u=&k=climate+change>

The Impact of Climate Change on Health and Equity – Article posted on June 22, 2016

***CASEL partnership with Youth Voice**

<http://www.casel.org/youth-voice/>

"CASEL has been in contact with school districts and initiatives supporting youth voice and the cultivation of SEL across the nation. These efforts began in May of 2013 when a diverse group of young leaders gathered from the Chicago area and presented at the CASEL Forum. They communicated a powerful message about the role youth voice could play in building the SEL movement."

<https://freechild.org/youth-and-gender-equity/>

"Gender equity is the fair distribution of respect, trust, communication, involvement and resources to people who identify as male, female or who are transgendered. It does not necessarily mean making the same activities, facilities and cultures available to males, females and transgendered people."

** "So CASEL partners with organizations that openly seek to change the world (or "systems") in areas such as health care, climate regulation, and sexual politics. How would SEL help accomplish that? Well, if schools are measuring students' "social awareness," might that encompass opinions of supposedly critical global problems such as climate change? And might a student's "relationship skills" be deemed deficient if, in keeping with the influence of his family and faith, he rejects the LGBT agenda such as same-sex marriage and normalization of gender dysphoria?"*

<http://thefederalist.com/2016/10/19/schools-ditch-academics-for-emotional-manipulation/>

5. Proponents for SEL-

-<http://www.educationviews.org/texas-schools-rush-new-common-core/>

-<http://thefederalist.com/2016/10/19/schools-ditch-academics-for-emotional-manipulation/>

-<http://blog.ed.gov/2011/04/social-and-emotional-learning-to-support-student-achievement/>

6. Data, Surveys, and Assessments -

***Texas Education Agency** - <http://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=51539607882>

***SEL evaluation is highly subjective.**

-<http://thefederalist.com/2016/10/19/schools-ditch-academics-for-emotional-manipulation/>

-<http://townhall.com/columnists/janerobbins/2016/08/08/the-latest-big-education-fad-social-emotional-learning-is-as-bad-as-it-sounds-n2202205>

-<http://www.flstopccoalition.org/files/7C7D2880-68E4-4C61-AF31-FF29E8FA9789—B5F8C62E-7031-43A4-953B-5CC3D6BF28E1/sel-child-mental-health-quotes-and-references.pdf>

**Subjectivity of Social Emotional Learning, Mental Health, and Mental Illness Criteria Compilation and Analysis* by Karen R. Effrem, MD

- There is no standard for SEL.
 - Social and Emotional Learning Research Review: Avoiding Pitfalls <http://www.edutopia.org/sel-research-avoiding-pitfalls12/1/2015>
 - Challenges Involved in Infant and Early Childhood Diagnosis
 - “Diagnostic classifications for infancy are still being developed and validated...”
 - “Lack of longitudinal outcome studies”
 - “Broad parameters for determining socioemotional outcomes are not clearly defined”⁵
- (National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy Addressing Social Emotional Development and Infant Mental Health in Early Childhood Systems 2005 <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED496853.pdf>.)

***SEL proponents warn against using SEL measures to rate schools -**

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/01/us/testing-for-joy-and-grit-schools-nationwide-push-to-measure-students-emotional-skills.html?_r=0

“But the race to test for so-called social-emotional skills has raised alarms even among the biggest proponents of teaching them, who warn that the definitions are unclear and the tests faulty. ‘I do not think we should be doing this,’ said Angela Duckworth, the MacArthur fellow who has done more than anyone to popularize social-emotional learning”

***SEL standards will be created, implemented, and assessed by people not trained to do so.**

-Dr. Gary Thompson, clinical psychologist, commenting on assessing children’s “attributes, dispositions, social skills, attitudes, and intrapersonal resources” in schools:

<http://www.utahnsagainstcommoncore.com/common-core-a-mental-health-professional-parents-perspective/>

*<http://www.casel.org/are-you-ready-to-assess-social-and-emotional-development/>

*<http://www.transformingeducation.org/measuringmesh/>

7. Alternatives to SEL

- Teach Golden Rule throughout the day
- Approved Character Education with State provided clear guidelines for Character Education and Mental Health
- Stretching exercises, Recess time, Moment of Silence to aid in focus skills
- ***Four minutes of physical activity** - Dr. Brendon Gurd, lead researcher and professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queens University, said four minutes of physical activity can improve behavior in the classroom for primary school students, and he and his team created the series of four-minute activities that students could complete in small spaces with no equipment.
- [-https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/funandgames-make-better-learners](https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/funandgames-make-better-learners).
- Human Sexuality Instruction should go through an open and transparent approval process
- Parental Notification and Opt-Out of controversial curriculums and lessons
- More parental involvement with SHAC committees and school boards

What's wrong with schools' teaching SEL with K-12 SEL standards?

- Will place added burdens on teachers and reduce classroom instruction time.
- Inevitably delves into, and may seek to change, student and family values.
- Will necessitate breach of student and family privacy.
- Is highly subjective, especially with young children, and will result in unreliable assessments and inappropriate "remediation".
- Even SEL proponents oppose rating schools with SEL measures.
- Will result in inclusion of this unreliable data in the student's eternal digital records, thus risking exposure to breaches and misuse of the data in future years.
- Will be carried out by inadequately trained personnel.

What other questions should be asked about SEL?

- Whose standards or criteria will be used to decide what the right answers are for SEL questions? Will parents have access to the assessments?
- How will Texas measure a bias of a child?
- What behavior is "appropriate" and to what degree?
- How will a child be remediated?
- Will a child have to be referred for a mental-health diagnosis if he fails any assessment?
- How much will it cost to implement SEL standards statewide? Where will the funding come from?
- What will be the extra cost per year over the next five years for maintaining the SEL standards?
- How will professional development necessary to implement and sustain the SEL standards be financed?
- How much will this cost?