School principals believe social and emotional learning is essential, and they want more guidance, training, and support to teach these skills effectively, according to a nationally representative survey of nearly 900 principals of elementary, middle, and high schools.

Social and emotional skills are teachable in a school setting. I am very/fairly committed to developing students’ social and emotional skills in my school.

Definitely teachable 74%  Probably teachable 25%
99% 95% teachable (47% definitely) among teachers in 2013

Very committed 69%  Fairly committed 28%

There is strong consensus that SEL should be taught to all students.

Students from all types of backgrounds—both affluent and poor—would benefit from learning social and emotional skills in schools.

Definitely true 73%  Probably true 25%  Probably not true 2%

Schools that are systematically implementing SEL also report more academic success.

Developing student critical thinking and reasoning
High Moderate Low
High 67%  Moderate 55%  Low 8%

Developing student ability to apply knowledge/skills in real-world situations
High Moderate Low
High 30%  Moderate 11%  Low 30%

Developing student knowledge in key content/subject areas
High Moderate Low
High 82%  Moderate 28%  Low 20%

Developing student’s development and acquisition of social and emotional skills can be accurately measured and assessed.

Key uses: identifying students needing intervention; evaluating SEL program effectiveness; sharing data with parents; and improving teacher instruction.

Which of these best describes your school in having a school-wide program for teaching students social and emotional skills?

BUT IMPLEMENTATION VARIES GREATLY

Developed a plan for teaching students social and emotional skills, and systematically implementing school-wide
High Moderate Low
High 35%  Moderate 20%  Low 46%

Not really considering developing a plan for teaching students social and emotional skills
High Moderate Low
High 2%  Moderate 8%  Low 28%

In the process of developing a plan for teaching students social and emotional skills but it is not yet complete
High Moderate Low
High 7%  Moderate 38%  Low 20%

Developed a plan for teaching students social and emotional skills with partial implementation
High Moderate Low
High 29%  Moderate 35%  Low 36%

Principals want help.

Definitely true 15%  Probably true 25%

Principals are optimistic that social and emotional skills can be assessed.