State Standards for Social and Emotional Learning
Overview of Presentation

1. Overview of SEL and Learning Standards
2. Examples of Policies that Support SEL Learning Standards
3. CASEL Findings from the State Scan at the Preschool Level
4. CASEL Findings from the State Scan at the K-12 Level
5. Resources Available at CASEL’s State Policy Web Page
6. Questions and Answers
Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies

- **Self-Management**: Managing emotions and behaviors to achieve one's goals.
- **Self-Awareness**: Recognizing one's emotions and values as well as one's strengths and limitations.
- **Social Awareness**: Showing understanding and empathy for others.
- **Responsible Decision-Making**: Making ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behavior.
- **Relationship Skills**: Forming positive relationships, working in teams, dealing effectively with conflict.
Why are standards for social and emotional learning important?

Convergence of Educational Movements:
• NRC Report *Education for Life and Work*
• School Readiness
• College and Career Readiness
• 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Learning Skills
• Common Core Standards
• Meta-analysis Linking Academic outcomes and SEL
Examples of policies that support learning standards for SEL

• Illinois Children’s Mental Health Act (2003)
• Kansas Character Development Programs Statute (2013)

• Federal Examples:
  – HR 4509 Supporting Emotional Learning Act (Davis and Ryan, April, 2014)
Goals of the CASEL State Scan

• To identify and review state learning standards related to social and emotional learning
• To understand how state standards are developed.
• To promote development and adoption of well-articulated, comprehensive social and emotional learning standards.
Summary of the key features of high quality SEL standards*

- Free-standing, comprehensive standards with developmental benchmarks across grade level and SEL domains that provide simple, clear, concise, consistent statements grounded in research.
- Integrated with standards in other subject areas
- Guidance on how adults can support students through teaching practices
- Guidance on how to create a positive learning environment and school climate
- Guidelines on how to make instruction culturally and linguistically sensitive and relevant
- Tools to support high quality implementation, including evidence-based programs, assessment, and professional development

*Please see handout for examples.
Method

- Review preschool standards in all 50 states.
- Review K-12 learning standards in all 50 states.
- Review sets of national model learning standards, including the Common Core.
- Make recommendations about content and features of model SEL standards
What are the key features of high quality SEL standards?*

- Free-standing, comprehensive standards with developmental benchmarks across grade level and SEL domains that provide simple, clear, concise, consistent statements grounded in research.
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Free-Standing Standards for SEL at the Preschool Level
Almost all states now have preschool standards documents that contain a set of free-standing standards for SEL.

90% of these documents actually use the terms “social” and “emotional” in the title for their free standing SEL standards (10% of states use other terms, such as “social and personal”.)
Comments

• There is wide variability in the number of standards and benchmarks each state provides for SEL (from less than 10 to more than 500, for benchmarks).

• State preschool standards are constantly changing, reflecting the strong desire on the part of states to improve their guidelines at the early childhood level.
Indicators

- Nearly all state preschool standards documents provide student indicators
Guidelines for Adults and the Environment

Close to 90% of state preschool standards documents:

• provide **guidelines for caregivers** on how to support child development.

• provide **guidelines for creating a positive environment**.
Approximately 80% of state preschool standards documents:

• provide guidelines on how to make instruction and programming **culturally sensitive**.

• provide guidelines on how to make instruction and programming **linguistically appropriate**.
Illinois’ Student Learning Goals for SEL: Preschool Standards

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Free-Standing Standards for SEL at the K-12 Level
Findings from K-12 Review of Standards: 4 Approaches to K-12 Standards for SEL

• Comprehensive, free-standing K-12 standards for SEL (4 states)
• Comprehensive, free-standing standards for SEL, pre-school through early elementary (at least 4 states)
• Focused, free-standing standards on one or more dimensions of SEL (at least 4 states)
• SEL standards integrated into other sets of learning standards (virtually all states, to varying degrees)
3 States Have Comprehensive K-12 SEL Standards with Developmental Benchmarks

- Kansas (2012)
- Pennsylvania (2012)
- West Virginia (2012)
Other States

• Three additional states offer broad SEL standards, but do not provide developmental benchmarks for these standards (Maine, Missouri, Vermont)

• New York offers a set of SEL Guidelines to support implementation of education in SEL
States with focused, free-standing standards on one or more dimensions of SEL

• Two states have free standing standards on Communication (Washington and Kansas)
• Tennessee has standards in Service-Learning for grades 9-12,
• Alabama has a set of standards for Character Education
SEL Integrated into Other Sets of Standards

Virtually all states have SEL standards that are integrated to some degree across other sets of standards. For example, the Common Core includes standards relating to problem solving, communication and collaboration.

However, while some states have done a lot of work in this regard, in many states, this content is usually not comprehensive across all five SEL domains, and/or is scattered and diffuse. Further, the content may not be consistent across subject areas or grade levels, and development is not systematically and strategically supported. In order to ensure that SEL standards are prioritized, CASEL recommends that there be free-standing standards.
At least 4 states have comprehensive SEL standards through early elementary

- Idaho
- Pennsylvania
- Washington
- Illinois
- Many other states are moving in this direction, thanks in part to partnerships with NGA and CCSSO
## Illinois’ Student Learning Goals for SEL: K-12 Standards

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Review of the key features of high quality SEL standards*

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Resources Available on the CASEL State Policy Webpage

http://www.casel.org/state-standards-for-social-and-emotional-learning
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