

1. What is CASEL?

CASEL, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning is the organization that provides the framework the Social Emotional Learning Programs follow. The framework hides the Critical Race Theory agenda of SEL and psychologically manipulates children to believe the radical ideology through Culturally Responsive Teaching.

2. How does CASEL define SEL?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

Concerns with CASEL's SEL

- Top-down approach (National organization dictating standards to states and schools)
- Massive mental health data collection from invasive surveys and assessments without parental consent
- Surveys are connected to student identification numbers (which are connected to SSN)
- Data is interpreted through a Critical Race Theory viewpoint and always returns results with systemic oppression
- SEL uses a Critical Race Theory framework that is implemented through Culturally Responsive Teaching which emphasizes the idea that Americans belong to one of two groups, oppressor or oppressed
- SEL counselors are trained to affirm all identities and shift the school culture to celebrate them & influence others
- Has a collectivist political ideology focus, encourages groupthink and discourages individuality
- Deconstructs a child's identity and modifies student values, beliefs and behaviors to accept new social norms
- Questions who has the moral authority – the individual? Or the group? Which group?
- Changes how "Problem Solving" works
- Uses a Restorative Practice Discipline which places behavioral issues on society rather than with individual responsibility
- Anti-intellectual - Removes rational thought and reason and focuses on emotional analysis
- Undermines family morals and parental rights
- Rewards those seeking power and victimhood
- Teaches children what makes themselves feel good is of highest value
- Impedes SEL growth and fuels shame and resentment.
- Intensifies tribalism through identity groups which intensifies aggression, prejudice, and cruelty.
- Designed to tear apart the individual and Western civilization.
- SEL programs are extremely expensive and essentially pyramids schemes profiting off of taxpayers

3. What to do and How to Help?

- **QUESTIONS to ask your child's teacher.** Utilize parent conference opportunities and other parent/teacher communications to inquire about SEL programs *and* the use of surveys to collect information about your child.
 - Could you tell me about the SEL program you utilize in my child's classroom?
 - Is the program mandated by the school, or are you able to independently determine what program to use?
 - Do you use supplemental materials (that you identify as helpful) as a part of the program?
 - Are you administering surveys as a part of the SEL program?
 - How are you using data collected from surveys as a part of the program?
 - What education officials have access to data collected from the surveys?
 - Is the school using a third-party provider to maintain SEL survey data? Do you work directly with the third party?
 - Has the school principle (or counselor) my opt-out with you? Are you aware that I have opted my child out of this program?
 - Please let me know if you incorporate principles of SEL into other academic or non-academic lessons so that I can make a determination regarding my child's participation.

▪ **QUESTIONS to ask school leaders**

- Are you utilizing an SEL program in the school?
- Is it mandated by the school board or superintendent, or have you implemented in this school site?
- Does the school district have a policy on SEL programs? May I have a copy?
- What SEL program is the school implementing?
- Is the school utilizing surveys as a part of the SEL program?
- Do you have a policy or process on opting out of programs like the schools SEL program?
- Is the school (or district) using a third-party provider to administer the SEL program or to manage student data collected from surveys?
- What is the school (or district's) policy for opting out of SEL programs?
- Will you communicate with my child's teacher that I have opted out of this program?

- **OPT-OUT!!** Your state or school district may have specific policies/forms for opting out. If so, use those forms. In some situations, federal law may apply to the SEL survey being implemented by the school. Here is opt-out language based on the Federal FERPA and PPRA laws:

I/We, _____, (parent(s)/guardian(s) names) elect to opt-out my/our child(ren), _____ (Child(rens) Names and Grade Level) under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) from any survey or questionnaire at any of the schools of _____ School District that requires my/our child(ren) to answer questions specifically regarding race, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, family structure, and/or socio-economic status. I/We also explicitly do NOT consent to my/our child(ren) participating in any federally-funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that will reveal:

- the student(s) own or parents' political affiliation or beliefs;
- mental or psychological problems of the student(s) or family members;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of their family members, close friends, and legally recognized privileged relationships such as lawyers, doctors and ministers,
- the student(s) or parent(s) and/or guardian(s) religious affiliations or beliefs, or
- income levels.

If a survey is essential to the district's information, please send to me/us for inspection and I/we will review and complete.

▪ **Get Information**

- **Review Your Child's Student Handbook**
 - Schools may include "Consent Forms" for participation in surveys in the Student Handbook or even Back to School Policies. Make sure you are not consenting to the participation of surveys or other data collections when you sign and return an acknowledgment form.
- **Know Your Local Policies**
 - Schools often have policies on the collection and use of student data. Some policies will be posted online. Know your school district policies.
 - Follow your local school board and monitor the agenda for agreement/contracts with third parties to collect data or administer SEL Programs
- **Know Your State Law**
 - Your state may have specific laws on SEL programs or the collection of data. Know your state laws.
 - Your state may allow for statewide opt out or may provide additional protections for student data
- **Know Your State Rules**
 - States adopt (or promulgate) regulations that apply to all schools. Know whether your state is mandating SEL Programs or specific data collection
- **Know your State Open Records Act and File Open Records Request to Obtain Information/SEL Program Information and Internal Communications**
 - You can file an open records request with your local school district to obtain SEL curriculum, SEL program information, internal communications between school staff regarding any topic, and contracts with third parties to implement SEL programs and collect student data.
 - Your state law will include specific instructions on submitting an open records request
 - Your school may have a specific form or a contact person for you to submit your open records request. Follow school procedures.
 - **See Parents Defending Education's Guide on Filing Open Records Requests:**
<https://defendinged.org/resources/filing-a-foia/>