

Resolution on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Summary

Research clearly indicates that social and emotional development is an essential foundation of cognitive development and directly related to students' academic achievement; yet studies show that social and emotional problems experienced by our youth continue to grow and with that, the resulting consequences of increased violence and lower academic achievement. Recognizing that for any child, the school setting is one of the most influential socializing contexts (outside of the family), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) developed social and emotional (SEL) learning standards (Appendix A) which include a framework for educators to create and then assess and evaluate the outcome of curricula and instruction designed to teach grade/age appropriate SEL skills and knowledge to students within the classroom. The SEL learning standards provide students in Illinois with the skills necessary to recognize, reflect upon and manage their emotions; develop caring and concern for others; establish positive peer and adult relationships; make responsible decisions; thus enabling them to handle challenging life situations. Legislators, educators, school services personnel and parents must promote and advocate for the swift and deliberate implementation of the SEL standards into the Illinois public school curricula.

Submitted to the Illinois State PTA by Neuqua Valley High School PTSA (January 2009).