

Executive Summary: Social and Emotional Learning Summary of Accomplishments

2011–2012 through 2015–2016

Lindsay M. Lamb, Ph.D.
Lindsey Stuart

Publication 15.43 ES
June 2016

This report, prepared by the Austin Independent School District's (AISD) Department of Research and Evaluation (DRE) in collaboration with AISD's Office of Innovation and Development (OID), summarizes the accomplishments of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in AISD from 2011–2012 through 2015–2016.

In 2011–2012, with initial funding from the NoVo Foundation, St. David's Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, Jeanne and Michael Klein, and RGK Foundation and by partnering with the [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning](#) (CASEL), AISD began to phase SEL into schools, with the goal of implementing SEL district wide by 2015–2016. At the same time, AISD became part of CASEL's [Collaborating District Initiative](#) (CDI), which supported the ongoing implementation and evaluation of SEL in AISD.



Examining AISD's SEL Department over time, we found several lasting accomplishments in the following areas: executive leadership, alignment with AISD policies and practices, assessment and evaluation, the role of SEL specialists, professional development opportunities, model schools, SEL approaches, and parental and community engagement. Importantly, these accomplishments, including districtwide implementation by 2015–2016, were made while the program and the district experienced several significant personnel and programmatic changes.

Now that SEL has been implemented district wide, it is important to document the changes and highlight the accomplishments the program has made from its inception so AISD program staff can move SEL from “what we do,” to “who we are.” The full report can be found on DRE's [website](#).

SEL at a glance

Implementation

In 2011–2012, with help from CASEL, SEL was implemented at 26 schools, expanding to all 130 schools in 2015–2016. In the first year of implementation, two SEL specialists were hired to support the initiative increasing to 13 specialists and two parent specialists in 2015–2016. Specialists support SEL implementation, share best practices, and train parents on fostering SEL skill development with their children at home.

Research

In 2012–2013, funding for 50% of an evaluation analyst was provided to DRE to analyze descriptive data for SEL. In 2013–2014, funding was expanded to 100% to provide support necessary to formally evaluate SEL. DRE staff also serve on CASEL's national assessment team to identify best ways to measure SEL skills. Reports from DRE's ongoing evaluation can be found [here](#).

Innovation

OID supports SEL with a blend of public and private funding. Since 2010–2011, approximately \$3.8 million has been donated by individuals, foundations, and other external partners (e.g., St. David's Foundation, NoVo Foundation, Buena Vista Foundation, Jeanne and Michael Klein, Tapestry Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, RGK Foundation, Lowe Foundation, Stratus Properties, Mary & Howard Yancy, MFI Foundation, Sandy & Lisa Gottesman, Allergan Foundation, AK Reynolds Foundation, and One Skye Foundation). In addition, SEL has been selected as a signature initiative of the Austin Ed Fund.