

SEL Solutions

at American Institutes for Research ■

SEL Solutions

Florida District Adopts SEL Strategy

After the shooting tragedy in Parkland, Florida, educators in the Pasco County Schools selected Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) as a districtwide prevention strategy in order to elevate the importance of school safety and students' mental health.

SEL leads to increases in:

School safety & mental health

Academic outcomes

Teacher retention

Engagement

Attendance

Teaching & learning conditions

College & career readiness

Pasco County Schools chose to develop SEL standards alongside academic standards to ensure that all students have the skills they need to become responsible and contributing members in the community.

SEL Solutions guided Pasco County Schools to:

- Articulate a SEL commitment statement with overarching goals and subgoals
- Review existing SEL standards from across the country
- Develop unique SEL standards and grade-band benchmarks with input from more than 65 district and school staff
- Infuse SEL standards into curriculum maps
- Build educators' capacity to embed SEL into daily instruction

According to the district SEL team, "Pasco County Schools educates the whole child. Our students learn to think critically and solve complex problems while also becoming compassionate human beings."

What We Do

SEL Solutions guides the adoption and implementation of SEL with strong stakeholder buy-in so that SEL is not viewed as an extra initiative or an additional burden. We guide districts in aligning SEL with existing priorities and initiatives. Our methods involve honoring local context, making data-informed decisions, and designing supports based on front-line concerns using our **Concerns-Based Adoption Model (C-BAM)**.

Partnering with SEL Solutions can help a district create:

- A **shared language** and **vision** for SEL
- A **knowledge** of the **conditions, practices, and policies** needed to activate that vision
- A **comprehensive, coherent, and coordinated districtwide strategy for SEL** (e.g., embed SEL standards into curriculum and instruction; set aside time for relationship building through an advisory period; or successfully implement a proven curriculum)
- An **action plan** to drive **implementation**

What Does SEL Look Like?

Four evidence-based approaches facilitate districtwide adoption of SEL:

Explicit skill development

Target specific social and emotional skills during time set aside for SEL.

Engaging instruction

Provide daily instruction that enhances social connections and personal reflection.

Embedded content

Weave social and emotional skills and topics into existing academic lessons.

Supportive environment

Ensure that policies, organizational structures, and relationships promote a safe, supportive, culturally responsive, and engaging school environment.

Contact Us: SELSolutions@air.org | 312.283.2402 | www.air.org/resource/social-and-emotional-learning-sel-solutions-air



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www.air.org

1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW | Washington, DC 20007-3835 | 202.403.5000

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19-7359_5/19