

SEL teaches children to be critical of our social system & guides them towards collectivism.

SEL guides children to become activists against our current cultural, economic, and political systems.

What is the goal of SEL?

“Engaged citizenship appears as a long-term developmental outcome. ... However, a critical democracy requires education to have collectivism, productive interactionism, & authentic engagement as it's goal. Accordingly, the field of SEL could aim to prepare students for not only engaged but also critical citizenship.”

“Critical self- and social- analyses are pivotal aspects of sociopolitical development and connote to an evolving understanding of cultural, economic, and political systems – how these systems shape society and how societal definitions impact one's own status within the society – to guide individual and collective sense of efficacy and actions to ameliorate oppression and injustice and realize liberation.”

SEL focuses on the race, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic status of students.

SEL can be a class but is also integrated throughout the school day. Emotionally charged curriculum is used to start SEL based dialogue with students.

SEL is considered a mindset or skill that is a part of every school and class.

What does SEL focus on?

“SEL places greater emphasis on affirming the strengths, experiences, and identities of all students -- most especially those who have been marginalized and minoritized by our society.”

“When SEL is integrated throughout all classrooms with a systemic, schoolwide approach, students can learn & practice SEL through explicit instruction ... and frequent opportunities to express their voice and perspectives.”

“Theory of Action - District Level: Develop SEL standards; adopt evidence-based SEL programs; foster family and community partnerships; integrate SEL across every interaction and setting.”

Is SEL a class?

CASEL believes that schools only provide support for White, middle-income students and that White culture dehumanizes the people in marginalized groups.

To affect social change.

To move America away from Western values.

Why is SEL pushed in schools?

“They [schools] prioritize prevailing middle-class American culture and can be thought of as offering a culturally relevant education to White middle-income children and youth.” ...
“This cultural orientation helped launch, sustain, and exacerbate ... stereotypes. These stereotypes further inequities by allowing dominant groups [White people] to affix blame on the disadvantaged...; justify unearned privilege; and engage in dehumanization ... of large segments of ... population.”

“It is necessary to consider a form of SEL that transforms individuals, interactions, & institutions.”

“In the United States and many other Westernized societies, there are dominant cultural themes of individualism” which “fosters elevated levels of greed, avarice, utilitarianism, and unethical behaviors.”

All quotes come directly from CASEL's published works.