

## **Social Emotional Learning Report**

Mr. Lentz shared the following information with stakeholders last week:

**Social-Emotional Learning and Wellbeing** is a major area of improvement for USD 434. It is also a state BOE outcome for the district's state accreditation process (KESA). District and building level teams will be working through a process to establish vision, goals, and action plans in order to better support students, staff, and families in the area of social emotional learning and wellbeing. Each month we will send out information both from the district and schools to help stakeholders learn about this initiative and the work that is being done.

What is SEL? The district is relying on the work of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) to help us define Social and Emotional Learning for our schools. 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.

**SEL Vision Statement: To foster social and emotional growth for all students, staff, and families; and to promote wellbeing within our community by providing a complete continuum of comprehensive & intentional instruction, support, and resources.**

[Kansas State Department of Education's vision for SEL](#)

**What does this mean for schools in Kansas and USD 434?**

1. We must assess our students, staff, and families needs in this area of learning.
2. We must train teachers to have skills that support struggling students.
3. We must have a district plan to support and educate those that are struggling.
4. We must evaluate our growth in this area with various data points.

**Where are we now?**

USD 434 is in the infancy stages of SEL work. At this time we have scheduled training throughout the year to work on staff wellness, understand stress and struggling students, learn strategies to help students, have a plan for crisis, and how to develop a framework for SEL district wide. This training is the first step and will be ongoing in order to prepare all educators. Secondly, the district has put together a district social emotional learning committee (DSEL) to

work through the planning and framework development of this initiative. This work will also be shared with the district leadership team in order to get feedback and ideas about how this SEL initiative can work in USD 434. Mr. Lentz will be sending out information to the public in order to keep everyone informed and learning along with us.

#### Why SEL?

1. SEL can improve student achievement as well as social skills such as kindness, sharing, and empathy.
2. Healthy SEL in educators can improve their performance in the classroom.
3. SEL can improve student engagement in school
4. SEL can improve attendance and graduation rates
5. SEL can prevent student crisis such as suicide, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, and violence.

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