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Heeding the Call for Change: Centering Equity in Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) APPENDICES

PREPARED FOR NOVO FOUNDATION | JULY 2021

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Appendix

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Appendix A: SEL Advisory Group Methodology



We intentionally conducted community-based participatory research by forming an SEL Advisory Group to inform and co-construct findings

Design	 A research method that centered equity and highlighted the experiences of people most proximate to SEL work in schools
Composition	 Seven members, including students, educators, family members and non-profit leaders in SEL from across the nation*
Structure	 Three 90-minute meetings April through June 2021 with 1-2 hours of prework prior to each call Participants received a stipend for their expertise and contributions
Selection Criteria	 Drew from key fields underrepresented in the research including OST providers/non-profit staff, educators, families of school aged youth and students. >80% of population the individual/organization works with identifies as BIPOC; demonstrated, impactful focus on SEL; >five years working within the community; EAG member identifies as BIPOC; balance of urban, suburban and rural communities
Role & Purpose	 Share experiences and expertise related to social and emotional learning to shape our research and ensure the report reflects lived experiences Provide ongoing feedback to identify potential blind spots and biases and inform final recommendations

Appendix B: SEL Definitions



Abolitionist, anti-racist and transformative SEL intentionally center racial equity, healing and liberation

TERMINOLOGY	DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION
Abolitionist SEL ¹	 Abolitionist SEL is "critical, healing centered, reciprocal in nature, culturally responsive, transformative, and dialogical" Abolitionist SEL "models center vulnerability, healing, joy, and community, resist punitive or disciplinary approaches, and do not involve school resource officers or police" Abolitionist SEL "is not an isolated lesson. It is a way of being that informs all aspects of teaching, learning, and relationship building with students, families, and communities"
Anti-racist SEL ²	 An anti-racist approach to SEL is rooted in racial justice and collective healing. Anti-racist SEL aims to "dismantle structural, institutional, and individual practices that harm young people, that inhibit their optimal social, emotional, and academic development" Anti-racist SEL posits that "educators and students deserve to express themselves freely without fear, to be treated with respect and valued, to feel safe, and to go to schools that challenge bias, discrimination, and oppression"
Trans- formative SEL ³	 Transformative SEL "is a process whereby young people and adults build strong, respectful, and lasting, relationships that facilitate co-learning to critically examine root causes of inequity, and to develop collaborative solutions that lead to personal, community, and societal well-being" Transformative SEL aims to "[redistribute] power to promote social justice through increased engagement in school and civic life"



Culturally sustaining, culturally affirming and trauma-informed SEL center personal strengths and collective cultural capital

TERMINOLOGY		DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION
	Culturally sustaining SEL ¹	 Culturally sustaining SEL is a "a process by which youth, adults, and elders build healthy intersectional identities, foster multicultural competence, forge social and emotional skills, and cultivate critical consciousness with a focus on social action" Culturally sustaining SEL "begins with seeing and cultivating the social and emotional competencies, cultural capital wealth and Indigenous ways of knowing that youth and communities already use to meet their needs"
	Culturally affirming SEL ²	 Culturally affirming SEL is the process through which people "recognize and process emotions, set and strive toward personal/collective goals and liberation while embracing failures as lessons, [and] feel and show empathy" Culturally affirming SEL aims to "establish and maintain positive relationships with ourselves, our land, and our community, make collective decisions, identify the intersections between the -isms (including colonialism, white supremacy, anti-Blackness, homophobia, cispremacy, linguicism, ableism, and all forms of oppression), and dream the world we deserve into being"
	Trauma- informed SEL ³	 Trauma-informed SEL "is an approach to fostering youths' social-emotional development with practices that support all students, but is particularly inclusive and responsive to the needs of children and youth who have experienced trauma" Trauma-informed SEL "calls for creating reliable learning environments where students who have experienced adversities and trauma feel supported and connected, are welcome to explore their strengths and identities, can exercise their agency, can develop meaningful, positive relationships with
Ö	educationfir	adults and peers and have access to the mental health supports they need" St 1. Rivera (2020); 2. Communities for Just Schools Fund (2020); 3. Transforming Education (2020)

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Appendix C: Shifts in SEL



Centering equity in SEL requires acknowledging the systemlevel conditions in which adults and students alike are asked to operate

	SEL that focuses on the individual student without considering system-level conditions perpetuates inequities, particularly racial inequities, ubiquitous in our education system and society ¹
THE ISSUE	One of the benefits of SEL often cited in research is that it leads to fewer disciplinary incidents. Yet, without centering equity, a common result is that SEL is used as a form of control, particularly against BIPOC students, to further perpetuate white dominant culture that narrowly defines what is "acceptable" behavior ²
MODEL EXAMPLE	Bronxdale High School, designated as a model site for restorative practice by the NYC DOE, infuses social justice and SEL throughout all aspects of their school as reflected in their vision for a safe, caring collaborative community in which all community members have voice, agency and responsibility. Strategic structures and policies such as small classes and restorative approaches, reinforced by five full time positions dedicated to social and emotional supports as well as various other student co-led structures such as peer mediations and youth court, advance the school's vision ³

Centering equity in SEL requires fostering an understanding of one's identity, role and agency as it relates to systemic root causes



Sustainable change requires integrating SEL throughout all aspects of the education system and this is particularly critical when centering equity in SEL

	SEL that is perceived as a standalone program or a separate initiative is unsustainable and places undue burden on individuals within the system ¹
THE ISSUE	Some of the challenges of SEL implementation include discrepancies in stakeholder understanding of the vision and scope of SEL as well as "initiative fatigue" wherein high turnover of SEL initiatives and lack of long-term resources and supports stunt implementation efforts ¹
MODEL EXAMPLE	Kansas MTSS and Alignment model is an integrated approach to education across academic, behavioral and social and emotional learning needs. It focuses on "system-level change across the school, district and state" including guidance for schools around the "process of needs assessment and decision-making that assists in not only selecting effective practices, but also creating a sustainable aligned structure," as well as "a system of prevention, early identification and intervention" ²

Appendix D: Supplementary Examples of SEL Practices that Center Equity



SEL Characteristic	Level	Example
	District CMO	Tulsa Public Schools' use of a liberatory design approach has enabled students to directly engage in redesigning their school, enabling them to have a voice in shaping SEL programming ¹
Student-Led	District CMO	Washoe County School District hosts a conference for students to lead sessions on topics including SEL , equity and school climate ¹
Community-	School	Anacostia High School in Washington, D.C., led by a dedicated team [*] , is undergoing a redesign process using human centered design thinking. Monthly stakeholder engagement meetings with parents, students, teachers, feeder schools, community partners and council members inform practices at the school, including SEL practices ²
Based	District	Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Family Partnership Institute supports parents and caregivers in advocating for their children while developing communities that can support one another in their advocacy work ¹

1. Schlund et al. (2020); 2. Education First SEL Advisory Group



*Team member roles include a Director, Assistant Director, Community Redesign Experience Coach and Teacher Redesign Experience Coach

SEL Characteristic	Level	Example
Community- Based	District CMO	Tacoma Public Schools partners with numerous community providers through the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative to align SEL efforts across classrooms, families and communities as well as to provide expanded learning opportunities ¹
	District CMO	Greeley-Evans School District in Greeley, CO uses the D6 Family Center to foster community collaboration through multilingual virtual meetings, community liaisons and preexisting supports within the community to engage the community and the district ²
Alignment to DEI	District CMO	The Office of Equity at Sacramento City Unified School District aims to coherently infuse equity and SEL throughout their schools via the SPARK framework, a framework that integrates SEL, positive relationships, data analysis, restorative practices and kindness ³
Alignment to DEI	District	Dallas ISD has a robust SEL Department and a Racial Equity Office. These two offices collaborate in coherent and consistent ways. For Black History month, the departments collaborated to curate a set of SEL resources for teachers that highlighted different Black leaders or movements ³

SEL Characteristic	Level	Example
Data Analysis	District CMO	Dallas Independent School District (DISD) uses a data analysis protocol to identify and address inequity . For example, a report showed that the district disproportionately suspended Black students, especially males and students with IEPs. This enabled DISD to examine their discipline practices, draft policies and redirect resources towards alternatives to suspension. Specifically, the district is creating "Reset Centers" at 52 comprehensive secondary schools and hiring full-time coordinators who will receive training on SEL, restorative practices, Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports, Multi- Tiered Systems of Support, and more ¹
	District CMO	Washoe County School District utilizes insights from a 17- question survey to inform understanding areas where students were feeling weakest and target staff development accordingly ¹ . In addition, the district provides guidance to every principal on how to examine data with an equity lens . It includes questions like "Does the program ignore or worsen existing disparities? Who benefits from our curriculum decisions?" ²



SEL Characteristic	Level	Example
	District CMO	Mesa County Valley School District in Grand Junction, CO uses the <u>4 S's Interview</u> to help educators build relationships with students ¹
Adult SEL	District CMO	Houston plans to offer professional development to school staff to ensure teachers and school leaders are better equipped to support students in crisis ²
Professional Development	District CMO	Brockton Public Schools in Massachusetts aims to address students' SEL in a culturally responsive manner. They are providing transformative professional development for educators and administrators to support them in this endeavor so that they can engage in conservations about race, racism and social justice with their students ³



Appendix E: Acknowledgements



Interviews & SEL Advisory Group

Interviews

- Dennis Barr, Director of Program Evaluation, Facing History & Ourselves
- Juany Gaytan-Valdespino, Executive Director of SEL Department, Dallas ISD (Dallas, TX)
- Jessica Hiltabidel, Director of Culture, Equity, and Access, The Inspired Teaching Demonstration School (D.C.)
- Dr. Cierra Kaler Jones, Education Anew Fellow, Communities for Just Schools Fund
- Leslie Kelly, Behavioral Health Program Coordinator, New Mexico Public Education Department (New Mexico)
- Jaime Koppel, Co-Director, Communities for Just Schools
 Fund
- Emily Schorr Lesnick, Director of SEL, University Prep (Seattle, WA)
- Josh Propfe, SEL Coordinator, Full Circle (Leadville, CO)
- Kim Robinson, Managing Director at Weikart Center and Executive Vice President at Forum for Youth Investment
- Estefania Rodriguez, Middle School Teacher, Oakland Unified School District (Oakland, CA)

SEL Advisory Group

- Stephanie Cole, Executive Director, Full Circle (Leadville, CO)
- Brianna Donald, Vice President & Co-Founder, Detroit Heals Detroit (Detroit, MI)
- Christina Lopez-Ruiz, Program Director, Mission Graduates (San Francisco, CA)
- Kristian Matthews, Chief Community Organizer, Detroit Heals Detroit (Detroit, MI)
- Byron McClure, School Psychologist & Founder, Lessons for SEL (D.C.)
- Destiny Santiago, Student Leader, Pa'lante Restorative Justice Program (Holyoke, MA)
- Michael Umesi, Mentor, Hetrick-Martin Institute (NYC, NY)



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