

## Social Skills Improvement System™ Social-Emotional Learning Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales (SSIS SEL) Information for Parents and Families

Our community works together to ensure high levels of learning for all. This includes not only being attentive to academic growth, but also recognizing that the social and emotional growth of students is critically important. Current research indicates a direct connection between students' emotional well-being and their academic performance.

**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. (CASEL 2021)

We are dedicated to creating academic and social-emotional supports linked directly to the assessed needs of our students. We now have the opportunity to systematically screen the social and emotional skills of all our students, using the **Social Skills Improvement System™ Social-Emotional Learning Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales (SSIS SEL)**.

### **SSIS SEL Information:**

The SSIS SEL Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales is a strength-based tool for screening and progress monitoring social and emotional competence. Teachers will be asked to score each of their students in the six following areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, and motivation to learn.

**Students' scores on their eighth-grade academic achievement tests were better predicted by scores on their third-grade social skills assessments than their third-grade academic assessments.**

(Caprara, Barbaranelli, Pastorelli, Bandura, & Zimbardo, 2000)

The first five areas listed above are the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) core competencies, also called "The CASEL 5."

The CASEL 5 are defined as follows:

- **Self-Awareness:** The abilities to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior across contexts.
- **Self-Management:** The abilities to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.

- **Social Awareness:** The abilities to understand the perspectives of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds, cultures, & contexts.
- **Relationship Skills:** The abilities to establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships and to effectively navigate settings with diverse individuals and groups.
- **Responsible Decision Making:** The abilities to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse situations.

#### ***How will the data be used?***

The SSIS SEL is a screener that provides a starting point to help identify student strengths and needs. The data is not used in isolation but rather in combination with other data to help ensure that all students get what they need to be successful.

**Teaching to students' strengths can improve student engagement.**

(Sternberg, 2000, Sternberg & Grigorenko, 2000)

The information gathered will guide the development of school-wide, small group, and/or individual academic and social-emotional supports and interventions. You will be notified if your child would benefit from joining a small group or individual intervention.

***Need more information?*** We would be happy to provide a copy of the screener to you. For more information about our social/emotional resources, please visit our School Website and the Student, Family and Community support [Webpage](#).

#### **References**

Caprara, G. V., Barbaranelli, C., Pastorelli, C., Bandura, A., & Zimbardo, P. G. (2000). Prosocial foundations of children's academic achievement. *Psychological Science*, 11, 302-306.

CASEL's SEL Framework: What are the core competence areas and where are they promoted? (n.d.). Retrieved February 23, 2021, from <https://casel.org/sel-framework/>

Guiding principle 5: Students bring strengths and experiences to learning. (n.d.). Retrieved February 23, 2021, from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cal/pdf/guiding-principles5.pdf>

#### **Resources**

CASEL: [SEL in Homes & Communities](#)