

## Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Core Curricular Resource

### Core Curricular Resource: Second Step

In sixth grade, students build on prior learning as they transition into adolescence and prepare for greater independence. Instruction continues with the Second Step program, supporting growth in decision-making, relationship-building, and self-management. Students explore bullying prevention, conflict resolution, and digital citizenship in greater depth, focusing on how their choices affect both themselves and their communities. In addition, students participate in D.A.R.E. lessons that provide age-appropriate instruction on drug and alcohol prevention, peer pressure, and making safe, healthy decisions.

### Secondary Curricular Resource: Aperture Lessons

Aperture Lessons are short, teacher-led learning experiences designed to strengthen specific social-emotional skills identified through the classwide DESSA-mini screening. When results show that students may benefit from support in areas such as self-management, relationship skills, or decision-making, teachers can use Aperture Lessons to provide focused, developmentally appropriate instruction that builds those competencies. These interactive, practical lessons are easy to integrate into daily routines and help students practice key SEL skills in meaningful ways.