PROTECT OUR KIDS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

A CRITICAL THEORY TROJAN HORSE

What is Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and why should parents be concerned with it?

SEL isn't what its promoters represent, but serves as a Trojan Horse for woke indoctrination. It's a kind of replacement parenting, where the government, operating through the public school system, assumes the role of parent to teach values, ethics, decision making, and self-management. SEL is the state's version of character training, but not in the way most people think. Because another purpose of SEL is to serve as a carefully disguised delivery vehicle for Marxist inspired Critical Theory.[1] In SEL, everything is filtered through the woke, or Critical Theory, worldview.

SEL goes back to the 1960s and the Yale School of Medicine in Connecticut. There, James Comer, in an attempt to cope with school children's behavioral and emotional problems, piloted what was called the "Comer School Development Program."[2] The object was to support not just academics, but to treat what is referred to as the "whole child"[3] This effort percolated among researchers over the years until 1994 when the "**Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning**,"[4] or CASEL, was established in Chicago. Since that time SEL has rolled out in some version to school systems all throughout the nation.

THE MISSION BEHIND SEL? *"CASEL's mission is to help make evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) an integral part of education from* ***preschool through high school****. We envision all children and adults as self-aware...who work together to...* ***create a more inclusive, just, and equitable world****."*

That might sound good, but SEL is a program of social engineering designed as a "lever for equity," not equality. In Critical Theory, equity refers to opportunity and wealth redistribution based on intersecting modes of victimhood and oppression.

To accomplish its mission, CASEL employs what it calls, "Systemic Implementation."[5]

[1] https://www.britannica.com/topic/critical-theory
[2] https://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/services/community-and-schools-programs/comer/
[3] https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Comer-began-movement-to-educate-whole-child-in-13421830.php#photo-16557559
[4] https://casel.org
[5] https://casel.org/systemic-implementation/

> *"[This] systemic approach ensures that SEL is **woven into all students' educational experiences**. More than a single lesson or activity, **SEL is integrated across key settings where students live and learn: classrooms, schools, homes, and communities**. It also **aligns school district and state policies**, resources, and actions to support SEL. **Federal policies play a role** in creating ripe conditions for supportive environments and rich learning experiences.*

- **CLASSROOMS.** You likely won't find an SEL titled course or curriculum. SEL comprises a form of critical pedagogy[6] insidiously woven into class discussions and exercises throughout the school experience. Indoctrination happens through role playing, scenario discussions and group psychology sessions.

- **SCHOOL DISTRICT.** SEL is meant to permeate the entire school experience. *"SEL should pervade every aspect of a district's work—from the superintendent's office to academics and core priorities..."*[7]

- **STATE & FEDERAL POLICIES.** Legislators are encouraged to pass laws and implement policies to implement SEL nation-wide.

- **PRIVATE "WORKFORCE INITIATIVES."** Private Employers are similarly encouraged to map their hiring and retention policies to SEL competencies.

As for what SEL purports to actually teach, CASEL offers the following wheel illustration:

Around the center are the SEL spokes of "Self-Awareness," "Self-Management," "Social Awareness," "Relationship Skills," and "Responsible Decision Making." This wording was carefully chosen, as each is desirable when taught according to a virtuous worldview and through wise caregivers (e.g., parents, extended family members, church, trusted friends, etc.) Yet the underlying worldview of SEL—*Critical Theory*—is anything but virtuous; and the administrators of SEL are inspired not by the spiritual and emotional well-being of our children, but by an agenda-driven ideology.

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[6] https://guides.library.charlotte.edu/c.php?g=1162254&p=8484887
[7] https://casel.org/systemic-implementation/sel-in-school-districts/

WHAT IS THE SEL AGENDA? A key objective of Social Emotional Learning is what CASEL calls, "**Transformative SEL**," by which is meant "***transforming inequitable settings and systems, and promoting justice-oriented civic engagement***." The question is, "inequitable" and "justice" according to who?

CASEL further defines Transformative SEL as,

> *"...a process whereby young people and adults build... relationships that facilitate co-learning **to critically examine root causes of inequity**...This form of SEL is aimed at **redistributing power** to more fully engage young people and adults in working toward just and equitable schools and communities."*

SEL purports to accomplish this agenda by conditioning children to:

- *"...reflect on personal and social identities, examining prejudices and biases, **interrogating social norms, disrupting and resisting inequities,** and co-constructing equitable and just solutions."*
- *"Prioritizing students' individual and **collective agency to take action** for more just schools and communities."*

As a Trojan Horse, SEL is more about conditioning a nation of activists in the mold of Critical Theory than it is emotion management. And while SEL pretends to bring a child's parents along as "partners," they fall in third place on the CASEL Wheel behind the both the "School" and "Classroom," which take center stage and away from parents' prying eyes.

"WHOLE CHILD." As mentioned, SEL advances what's known as the Whole Child, a concept that's been adopted by an increasing number of private and government agencies, including the CDC.[9] According to the Learning Policy Institute[10] (LPI), Whole Child Education centers around, "education strategies that recognize the connections between children's social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, as well as their physical and mental health."

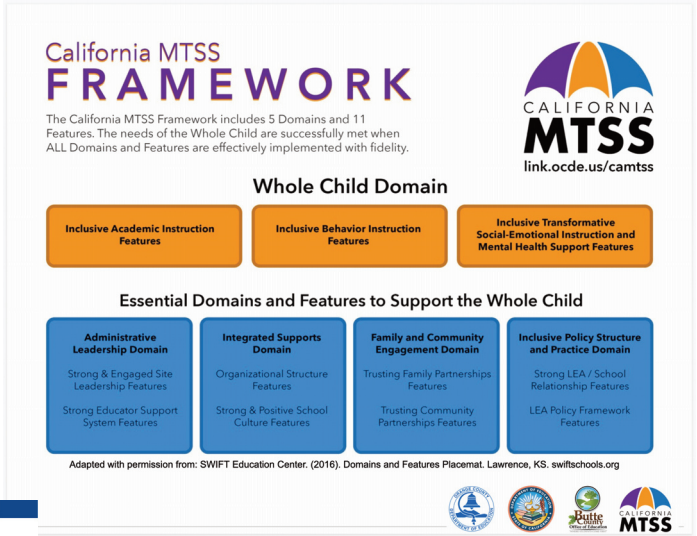
Many states have incorporated SEL and Whole Child into their educational frameworks. The goal being to advance a worldview and behavioral values that, until recently, were the right and responsibility of parents.

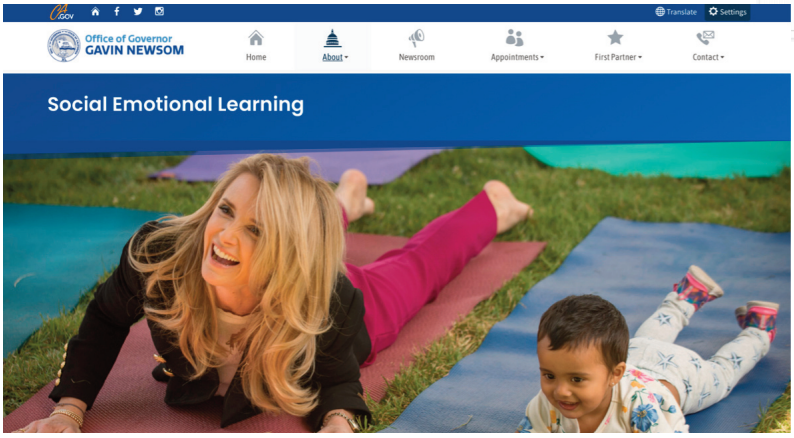
Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model

[8] https://casel.org/fundamentals-of-sel/how-does-sel-support-educational-equity-and-excellence/transformative-sel/
[9] https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm
[10] https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/topic/whole-child-education

For instance, California educators now assume the lead role for things like, “Inclusive Behavior Instruction,” “Inclusive Transformative Social-Emotional Instruction,” and even “Mental Health.”

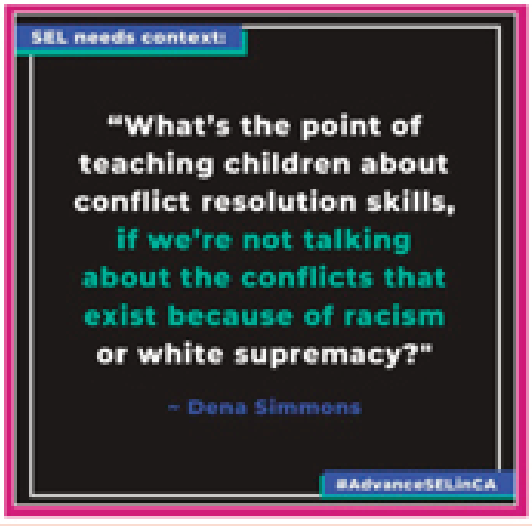
The governor’s office in California calls SEL the “Cornerstone of CA’s Education System.”

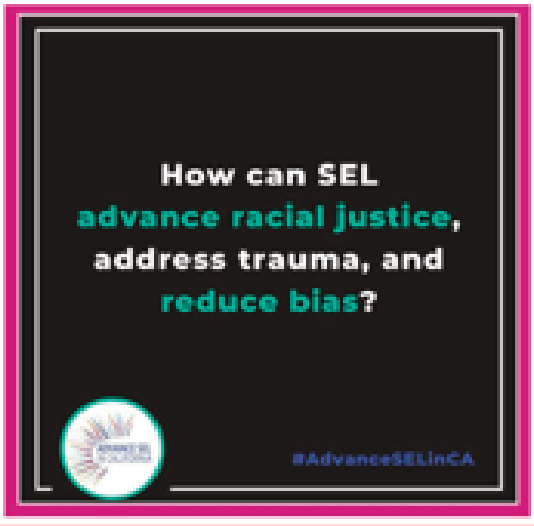




In California, for example, the Department of Education is advancing its own version of Transformative SEL, where educators are tasked with creating, “... educational climates that are **welcoming, inclusive, culturally responsive, identity affirming**, and empowering for all students.” These are all code words for a Critical Theory (woke) based worldview.

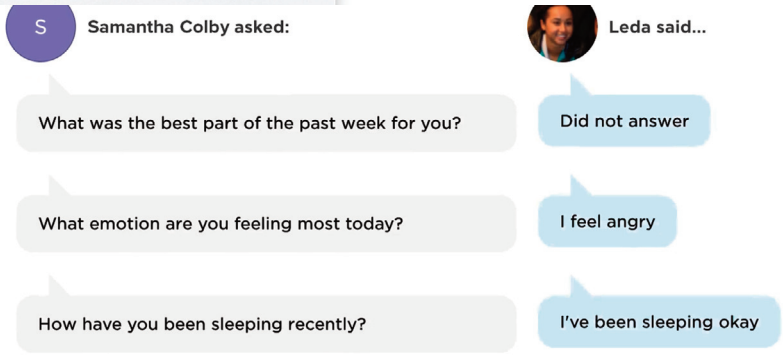
Other often used terms in SEL like “Welcoming,”[11] “inclusive,” and “identity affirming” relate to programs that promote Sex & Gender Theory[12] throughout K-12 education. “Culturally responsive”[13] relates to critical pedagogy where children are trained to be “critically conscious,” through which they learn to challenge the oppressive/ dominant power structures of the status quo. Such concepts stem from Hegel’s Dialectic[14] and Marxism. California is in the vanguard of implementing this pedagogy through a program called, “Advance SEL in California.”[15]

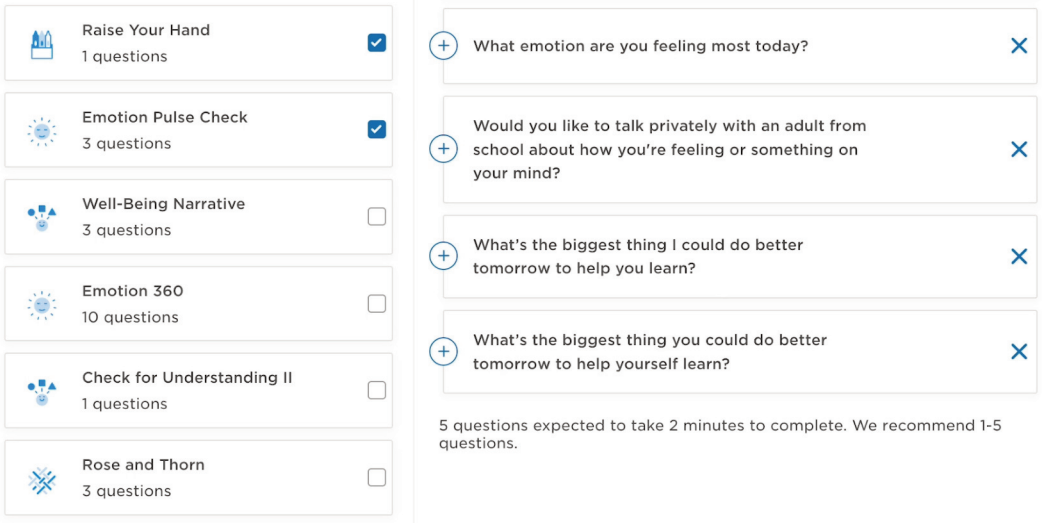




[11] https://welcomingschools.org
[12] https://protectourkidsnow.org/curriculum/
[13] https://econedlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LadsonBillings_Culturally-Relevant-Pedagogy.pdf
[14] https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georg-Wilhelm-Friedrich-Hegel/Emancipation-from-Kantianism
[15] https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel37.asp

DATA COLLECTION. If replacing parents and conditioning children in Critical Theory isn't concerning enough, there's another aspect of SEL that should be. Practitioners of SEL are collecting massive amounts of data on our children's beliefs, emotions, and lives through invasive surveys and assessments, most often without a parent's consent. This data is filtered through the lens of Critical Theory and carefully catalogued. Surveys are connected to student ID numbers which are connected to SSN's. Private companies contract with government agencies and schools to track and make use of this data. One such company is Panorama Education.[16] It provides surveys to consistently track a child's SEL metrics. Examples are a child's "behaviors," "feelings," and "attitudes." Depending on the scores, a child's answers may trigger "interventions" for further SEL conditioning.



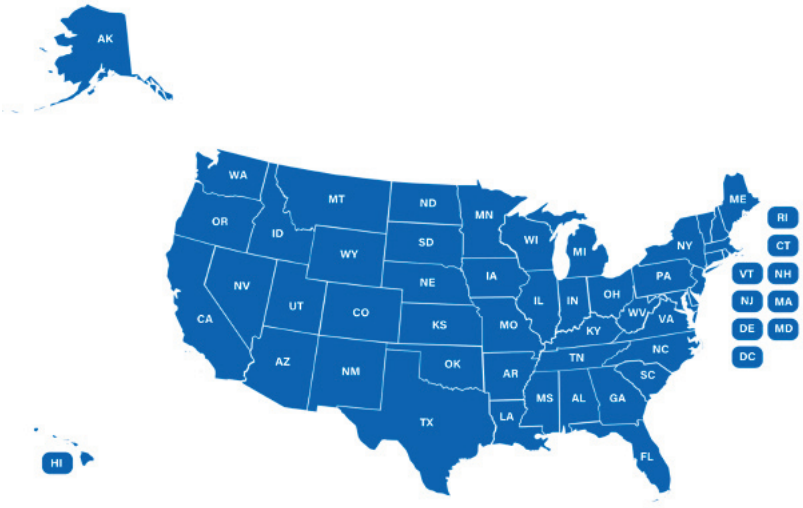


Here's a link to a video[17] from Panorama that describes such record keeping.

SOCIAL CREDIT SCORING? SEL is being sold to schools as a tool for promoting cultural harmony and employability. But it's a short step for SEL data to be converted into a Social Credit Score[18] system that employers, government agencies, financial institutions and others will come to rely upon. That process is already under way. A survey[19] showed that 59% of hiring managers say they would benefit from knowing what a job candidates' SEL scores were.

[16] Panorama Education is reported to have been co-founded by U.S. Attorney General, Merrick Garland's Son-In-Law.
[17] https://www.panoramaed.com/social-emotional-learning-sel
[18] https://frankspeech.com/article/social-credit-score-dangerous-system
[19] https://www.cesa8e4ed.org/employability-skillssel.html

HOW WIDESPREAD IS SEL? As the linkable[20] graphic below from CASEL indicates, it is already in all 50 states.



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO? Parents of school aged children should ask themselves:

- Do I want the public-school system indoctrinating my child in Critical Theory?
- Do I want school officials forcing behavioral and psychological counseling upon my children through SEL?
- Do I want the public-school system to track and monitor my child's – and by extension our family's – beliefs, attitudes, and values?
- Do I want my children participating in a Social Credit Score system?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then POK advises the following.

1. Meet with your teachers and school officials and inquire how SEL is being implemented:
   - ✓ Ask about specific SEL instructional tools
   - ✓ Ask about third party SEL programs and consultants
   - ✓ Ask about school policies regarding SEL instruction and/or counseling
   - ✓ Ask about surveys and assessments
     - What is being asked?
     - How frequently?
     - How is the data used?

2. Send a Freedom of Information Act[21] (FOIA) request to your local school district demanding all information related to SEL instruction. See, for example, California Public Records Act – CPRA.[22] It requires a response within 10 days of receipt. Other states have similar FOIA laws that can be searched.

3. OPT-OUT[23] of all SEL/Critical Theory Instruction Surveys.

4. Get Out Now![24] Make plans to remove your child from the public school system. This is the only way to ensure they will not be subject to public school indoctrination.

[20] https://casel.org/systemic-implementation/sel-policy-at-the-state-level/#CA
[21] https://www.foia.gov
[22] https://www.ftb.ca.gov/your-rights/california-public-records-act.html#How-To-Request-Records
[23] https://protectourkidsnow.org/opt-out/
[24] https://www.amazon.com/Get-Out-Now-audiobook/dp/B07HJFM8J7/ref=sr_1_1?crid=ZLI4NWHOX8RC&keywords=get+out+now&qid=1671179224&sprefix=get+out+now%2Caps%2C184&sr=8-1

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