



## The Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety



The creation of the Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety (“Center”) comes at a critical time. Disparities in students’ academic and life outcomes remain significant, while threats to the physical and emotional safety of our nation’s youth – including gun violence, opioid use, and suicidality – seem to be gaining momentum.

When all children are educated in places of equity, safety, and learning, and when they receive the integrated academic, social, and emotional supports that meet their individual needs, then they can achieve their greatest personal potential in K-16 education, and in career and life.

### Charge and Role of the Center

The national Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety intends to expand the knowledge and capacity of the field to adopt or adapt evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) and school safety practices and programs, then to integrate them with academic learning – all with the intent of supporting students’ success throughout their K-12 experience and beyond, in their choices for college, career, and life.

The Center serves as:



#### A trusted advisor

to state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) as they work toward effective and sustainable integration of new SEL and school safety practices with their existing academic models and in their own contexts



#### A resource

for effective, evidence-based approaches that address the distinct needs of children, educators, and school communities

### Objectives and Activities

The Center has identified four primary objectives:



**Building the capacity and competencies of leaders and educators**



**Identifying and/or creating, and sharing, models of effective practice**



**Supporting SEA and LEA capacity to provide technical assistance at the district and school levels, respectively**



**Improving SEA and LEA capacity to gather and use data for improvement**

Collaboration with other national and regional technical assistance centers and nationally recognized subject-matter experts will result in a broad range of technical assistance for SEAs and LEAs.

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## Tiers of Support

A needs sensing effort conducted in the first year determines the priorities of the Center, which, in turn, informs the design of technical assistance to support SEA and LEA needs. Support is provided using a three-tiered approach:



### *General,*

including evidence-based tools, resources, and professional learning on a publicly available platform designed for a broad audience



### *Targeted,*

providing opportunities for SEAs and LEAs to engage in customized professional learning, through facilitated networks of practice or consultation with subject-matter experts



### *Intensive,*

engaging in extended partnerships with SEAs and LEAs to design and implement change initiatives, develop policy guidance, and/or provide guided strategic planning for program implementation.

## Best Practices

The core of the Center's work is identifying what is working at the local level, adapting it for a more general audience, and amplifying it through development and dissemination of new resources. Building the field's knowledge and capacity is the heart of this work.

## Partners

WestEd serves as the lead for the Center and is supported by subgrantee partners RAND Corporation, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Transforming Education.

For more information, please contact us at [selcenter@WestEd.org](mailto:selcenter@WestEd.org). We are eager to work with you.

[SELcenter.WestEd.org](http://SELcenter.WestEd.org)