WENATCHEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE UPDATE

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

BACKGROUND

Midway through the 17-18 school year, two consecutive Focused Improvement Team meetings were held and they centered on Healthy Youth Survey data and staff concerns about the increasing needs (social, emotional, & behavioral) of students.

The Social Emotional Learning Steering Committee was formed as a result of those meetings and charged with the task of creating an integrated (into academics), systemic (happening with integrity throughout the system), multi-tiered (Tiers 1 – 3) and comprehensive (from classroom to community) approach to Social Emotional Learning, throughout our K-12 system.



FIRST STEPS

😔 Committee Meeting: June 2018

The first meeting occurred in June 2018, and the committee has met a total of six times since then. The steering committee officially adopted the Washington State SEL Standards to guide the work.

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Taskforce Groups Created

Five Task Forces were created and charged with specific focus areas: Elementary Schools Middle Schools High Schools Community/Parent Partnership District-wide Oversight/Coordination

KEY FACTOR

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One key underpinning of this work is the **relationship between** our **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) initiative and **SEL**.

RESOURCES

The steering committee and the District PBIS Leadership Team relied on two resources to guide our learning: The Integration of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports and Social Emotional Learning and, Teaching Social-Emotional Competencies within a PBIS Framework

SEL COMMITTEE UPDATE



THE GIST:

Strengthening students' SEL competencies gives them the tools they need to meet school's PBIS behavior expectations. Based on this learning, school PBIS teams have begun integrating Universal (Tier 1) SEL into their existing PBIS programs. This involves adding SEL components into school-wide expectations, behavior matrices, explicit instruction plans, acknowledgements systems, and interventions.



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Elementary Taskforce Members

Sunny Savage Asst. Principal, Lewis & Clark and Newbery

Jeff Williams 5th Grade Teacher, Lincoln

Mary Doerr Intervention Specialist, Lincoln

Memory Visscher Elementary Teacher, Valley Academy

Roxanna Vanatta Bilingual 2nd Grade Teacher, Columbia

Elizabeth Detamore, Counselor, Columbia

Jodee Smith 4th Grade Teacher, Washingtor

Melodie Ross 5th Grade Teacher, Lewis & Clarl

Justin Neilson Counselor, Mission View

Blanca Corona Parent

TASK FORCE UPDATE

For next year, focusing on training and implementation fidelity of the Second Step SEL Curriculum. A dozen teachers are also currently piloting a free SEL curriculum called Sanford-Harmony. This curriculum includes daily "meetup" and "buddy-up" procedures to reinforce the content & skills from the weekly lessons. The pilot will continue next year with the inclusion of more teachers to help inform a decision to potentially adopt Sanford-Harmony districtwide for the 20-21 school year.

Note: if the decision is made to formally adopt Sanford-Harmony, Second Step will still be available for use by teachers and counselors as a secondary resource.



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Middle School Taskforce Members

Karissa Harle 7th Grade Core, Pioneer

Ellen McErvin School Psychologist

Elissa Johnston 6th Grade Core, Foothills

Amy Spietz PE Specialist, Orchard

Taunya Brown Principal, Orchard

Kirk Marshlain Special Education, Foothills

TASK FORCE UPDATE **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

After researching several options, the Middle School Task Force is moving forward with the Character Strong program for next year. This program helps educators infuse character and social-emotional learning into the daily fabric of any classroom or campus. The curricula focus on character development in order to help students cultivate social-emotional skills & their emotional intelligence, and help them develop a stronger identity and purpose in school and in the world.

Implementation is unique to each site, but all three schools will provide training for teachers in August 2019, and all three schools will begin using the program to strengthen their students' SEL competencies during the school year.





Heather Bertomeu Paraprofessional, WHS & WSHS

Jennifer Douglas Nurse, Lewis & Clark/Newbery

Heidi Monroe Special Education, WSHS

Russ Rummler Art Teacher, WHS

Doug Taylor Counselor, WHS

Kory Kalahar, Principal, WSHS

Shelly Jelsing, SEL Teacher, WHS

TASK FORCE UPDATE

Both Wenatchee High School and Westside will implement the Character Strong program for next year. This program helps educators infuse character and social-emotional learning into the daily fabric of any classroom or campus. The curricula focus on character development in order to help students cultivate socialemotional skills & their emotional intelligence, and help them develop a stronger identity and purpose in school and in the world.

Wenatchee High School will use Character Strong in Leadership and ASB classes. The teachers who will be delivering these lessons will be trained in August 2019.

Westside High School is implementing Character Strong school-wide and they are providing a full day training to all of their teachers in August 2019. They are also continuing their work with Trauma-Informed Practices. Westside is also re-aligning brain development curriculum in their Foundations courses and requiring students to take this as one of their pathway electives from their Day School.

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Community & Family Taskforce Members

J**ennifer Devereux,** ELA Teacher, WSHS

Si Stuber Principal, Columbia

Kris Collier Director, Children's Home Society

Diana Cendejas Parent

Amy Moubray Parent

Erin James Parent

TASK FORCE UPDATE COMMUNITY & FAMILY

Have created a comprehensive communication plan to keep our community informed about what SEL is, why it's important, and how they can support the work.

They have also implemented the cross-district use of the Washington 211 brochure as a resource for families.

Dialing 211 will connect families with a specialist who will refer them to agencies in our area that cater to their specific needs.



District-Wide Taskforce Members

Mandy Hupp School Psychologist

Jan Bullock Counselor, WSHS

Kevin Rimes Paraprofessional, Foothills

Micha Ollerton WSD Behavior Specialist

K**risten Callison** Counselor, Lincoln

J**essica Bryant** Special Education, Lincoln

Kris Cameron Wenatchee EA President

Leslie Peterson, Instructional Coach, Lincoln

Trisha Craig Special Education Director

TASK FORCE UPDATE DISTRICT-WIDE

We will be using the CASEL District Implementation Guide to monitor our progress as we begin implementing next year and beyond.

We have also placed heavy emphasis on preparing the adults in the system in order for them to support our students in these areas.

Training, communication, and collaboration for adults is mandatory for effective implementation with students. This will be a focus area for next year.

FACILITATOR UPDATE

Mark Helm (Assistant Superintendent) and Mike Lane (Director of State & Federal Programs) have co-facilitated the SEL Steering Committee. They are working on pursuing an MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) implementation in the coming years. This approach would align academic, SEL, and behavioral interventions into one comprehensive, integrated program. They are also working to provide additional support to elementary schools in light of budget cuts. The work of SEL Steering Committee will continue into next year when it will be combined with PBIS Leadership Team. One of the focuses of the committee for next year will be on tools for program evaluation and growth monitoring.

Mark and Mike wish to thank all of the Steering Committee members for their collaboration, leadership, and commitment!



MARK HELM Assistant Superintendent



MIKE LANE Director of State & Federal Programs

