



LEADING FOR SCHOOLWIDE SEL: PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

Identity, Agency and Belonging as Expressions of SEL

IDENTITY

Definition: Who you are, informed by how you see yourself and how others perceive you. Identity is multi-faceted and is shaped by a number of factors, including your culture, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and academic identity -- and how these identities intersect.

Related social and emotional competencies: self-awareness, social awareness with implications across all competencies

SEL as a lever for equity supports identity development by:

- Elevating students' unique perspectives and lived experiences to allow for an acceptance and affirmation of who they are as individuals.
 - Viewing unique identities as assets that help support and shape our communities.
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AGENCY

Definition: The ways in which individuals or groups use their resources and abilities to advocate for and effect change through purposeful action. This may include expressing resilience, resisting injustice, and co-creating solutions to societal problems.

Related social and emotional competencies: self-management, responsible decision making

SEL as a lever for equity supports agency by:

- Providing students opportunities to use their voice and develop their ability to serve as change agents today and to help interrogate and shift systems in the world tomorrow.
 - Creating conditions for adults to work and learn alongside students to co-construct the learning conditions that best support their success.
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BELONGING

Definition: The experience of acceptance, respect, and inclusion within a group or community. Belonging implies not only recognition, but also full involvement in meaning making and the building of relationships and institutions. School belonging is one of the more important factors associated with students' social and emotional well-being, academic motivation and engagement, school satisfaction and academic achievement.

Related social and emotional competencies: social awareness, relationship skills

SEL as a lever for equity supports belonging by:

- Fostering a sense of community and connectedness by helping each person see their role as critical to the construction of an experience that benefits all.
- Helping adults and students build meaningful relationships to share power and focus on collective well-being.