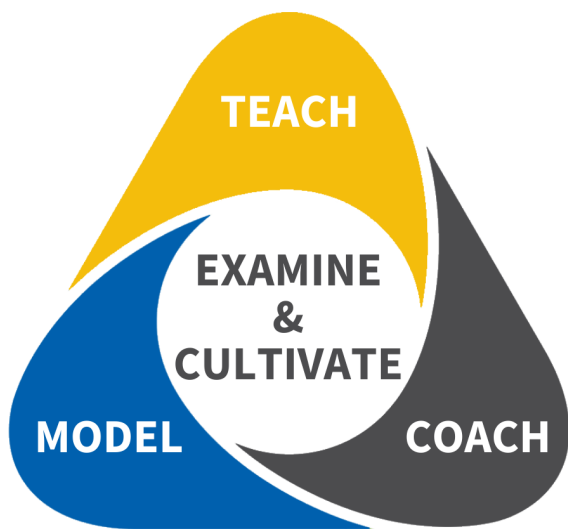# TRANSFORMING EDUCATION'S
SEL Integration Approach

Transforming Education's SEL Integration Approach outlines how educators can integrate social-emotional learning (SEL) in a way that is flexible, culturally responsive, anti-racist, and aligned with ongoing academic experiences in the classroom. It leverages best practices in pedagogy to support an intentional approach to social-emotional learning.

By embedding opportunities to promote social-emotional learning into the fabric of the school day, educators can support students in building on their existing competencies in an authentic way within the context of a positive learning environment.

SEL Integration Approach

EXAMINE the ways in which your identities, actions, mindsets, and emotions encourage or inhibit an equitable and inclusive learning environment.

CULTIVATE a learning environment in which all community members are valued, can enact their agency, build meaningful relationships, and experience a strong sense of belonging.

TEACH vocabulary, skills, and strategies related to SEL in explicit ways that involve input from and collaboration with families and students.

MODEL social-emotional skills and mindsets through demonstration, embodiment, and overt narration.

COACH students as they practice, generalize, and apply their skills and mindsets in a variety of complex, new, planned, and unplanned situations.

How These Components Work Together:

The five components of the SEL Integration Approach are dynamic and interdependent, rather than cyclical or hierarchical. **Examine** and **Cultivate** sit at the core of SEL integration; educators who examine their own identities and the systems within their school communities, as well as how these impact the student experience, are better equipped to cultivate strong relationships and supportive environments. **Teach**, **Model**, and **Coach** are practices that build on the core elements of examination and cultivation to dynamically foster the development of social-emotional competencies and mindsets. Like puzzle pieces, the five components work together to form an effective whole.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION'S
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Key Considerations:
- Apply the same best practices to SEL as you do to academics; make your teaching differentiated, culturally relevant, anti-racist, developmentally appropriate, interactive, and student-centered.
- Ensure that SEL is an essential component of planning, not an additional step.
- Be reflective in your approach to SEL and which narratives you perpetuate.
- Consistently solicit feedback from and partner with students, colleagues, and families.

EXAMINE

Adults who strengthen their self- and social awareness are better able to create a classroom ethos that is welcoming, inclusive, and more equitably serves all members of the school community. With compassion and vulnerability, self-reflect to examine your own identities and critically examine the systems that exist within your school community.

CULTIVATE

Cultivating a safe and supportive learning environment requires an intentional approach to accessibility, physical space, routines, rituals, and communication. To foster a strong sense of belonging, build relationships with students, respect them as individuals, help them enact their agency, and facilitate meaningful peer interactions.

TEACH

Whether taught through a curriculum, program, or series of lessons, it is important to intentionally plan SEL instruction and promote active student engagement in activities, role plays, and collaborative work. To support students as they internalize and make meaning of SEL, invest time in teaching social-emotional competencies in a variety of settings.

MODEL

Teachers and students explicitly and implicitly model SEL through their words and actions, including expressing emotions, making decisions, establishing boundaries, and responding to challenges. To bring social-emotional competencies and mindsets to life, be intentional in your modeling through demonstration and the metacognitive process of "thinking aloud."

COACH

Learning is contextual; there are countless opportunities for social-emotional growth both inside and outside of the classroom. To help students generalize their skills to new situations, guide students to see SEL in their daily lives, help students apply their skills and mindsets in a variety of new and increasingly nuanced situations, and give real-time feedback that normalizes mistakes.

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