

Social & Emotional Learning and Destination 2020

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October 28, 2013

Infusing the ASD K-12 SEL Standards into the Common Core

Greetings from the ASD's SEL Team and welcome to the second edition of the ASD SEL academic journal.

This year, the impetus is on explicitly stating SEL is the way the ASD does business through the lens of Destination 2020 and the six goals - 90% achievement in reading, writing and math; 90% graduation rate; every student will attend school at least 90% of the time; 90% of parents recommend their child's school; 100% of staff and students feeling safe at school; and operational efficiency. Actively promoting the ASD's commitment to SEL in alignment with Destination 2020 and the Common Core State Standards is a priority.

Destination 2020 is the Anchorage School District's comprehensive strategic plan to focus on the mission, which is "to educate all students for success in life" with the vision being that "all students will graduate prepared for post-secondary educational and employment opportunities." The Common Core State Standards are a set of rigorous, evidence-based standards that are clear, consistent and aligned with college and career expectations. In a transient community like the ASD, the adoption of the Common Core State Standards ensures students have cohesive and consistent performance standards.



Contents:

ASD Destination 2020

**SEL Infusion into the
Common Core**

**K-12 SEL Instructional
Practice**

**Exploring the
Connections Between
SEL and the CCSS:
*Instructional Practices
Table***

Common Core State Standards

According to the Common Core State Standards initiative, the Standards “provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn. The Standards are designed to be relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college, careers and in life.”

The Standards “define what all students are expected to know and be able to do, not how teachers should teach. Teachers are thus free to provide students with whatever tools and knowledge their professional judgment and experience identify as most helpful for meeting the goals set out in the Standards.”

ASD K-12 SEL Standards

One tool available in the Anchorage School District is the ASD K-12 SEL Standards. The K-12 SEL Standards are the underlying skills students need to meet the Common Core State Standards. They are the skills students need to listen to perspectives of others, use positive communication, be aware of cultural issues and differences, read social cues, set and achieve goals, and take personal responsibility for their learning. What students are asked to do in the Common Core State Standards gives them the opportunity to practice these SEL skills during instruction.

Both the ASD K-12 SEL Standards and the Common Core Standards are skills and understandings that have wide applicability outside the classroom or workplace.

What follows is a professional development tool designed to guide exploration of the connection between the ASD K-12 SEL Standards and the Common Core State Standards for any academic content. This tool, Infusing SEL into the Common Core: Discussion Guide, is designed to facilitate group discussion on instructional practices that foster practicing the SEL skills while meeting the expectations of the Common Core State Standards.

Getting Started

Materials:

- ✓ Infusing SEL into the Common Core: Discussion Guide
- ✓ Common Core State Standards for your content area and grade level
- ✓ Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards and Indicators for the Anchorage School District
- ✓ Exploring the Connections Between SEL and the CCSS (note-taking table)

Directions:

- Read through the ASD K-12 SEL Standards and indicators for your grade level.
- Read through the Common Core State Standards for your academic content area.
- As a group, begin with one Common Core State Standard to focus on.
- Look back at the 15 ASD K-12 SEL Standards and indicators and select one standard that connects the SEL skill students will need to meet the CCSS you chose to focus on.
- Write both the CCSS and the SEL standard into the table attached to this document.



K-12 SEL Instructional Practice: Guided Discussion

The Common Core allows freedom in how teachers deliver their instruction and reflect on instructional practices that foster practicing the SEL skills while meeting the expectations of the Common Core Standards:

Thinking about both the SEL standard and the CCSS you selected, reflect and discuss -

1. What instructional practices do you use, or could you use that provide the opportunity for students to practice this skill? Write the instructional practices in the table.
2. What questions and/or statements could you say to make students aware of the skills they are practicing?

Exploring the Connections Between the ASD Social and Emotional Learning K-12 Standards and the Common Core State Standards

Use this table to capture your thinking and reflect on the connections you make between the ASD K-12 SEL Standards and the Common Core State Standards.

Common Core State Standard:	ASD K-12 SEL Standard:
Description:	Indicator:
<i>What instructional practices do you use, or could you use that provide the opportunity for students to practice these skills?</i>	
<i>What questions and/or statements could you say to make students aware of the skills they are practicing?</i>	

This connection between the CCSS and the ASD K-12 SEL Standards demonstrates how SEL skills are REAL, and that they are needed and used throughout academic content and beyond.

Please don't hesitate to contact the SEL Team - Heather Coulehan, Jan Davis, Clare Morrison, and Gavin Vaughan - with questions or inquires. We look forward to working with you.

Reference:

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Council of Chief State School Officers.

The way we teach is as important as what we teach.



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