



How school climate and social-emotional learning can improve student outcomes

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The science of learning and development

Learning and development happens through relationships

The brain develops throughout life as a function of experiences that activate neural pathways, which permit new kinds of thinking and learning.

The kinds of experience matter greatly.

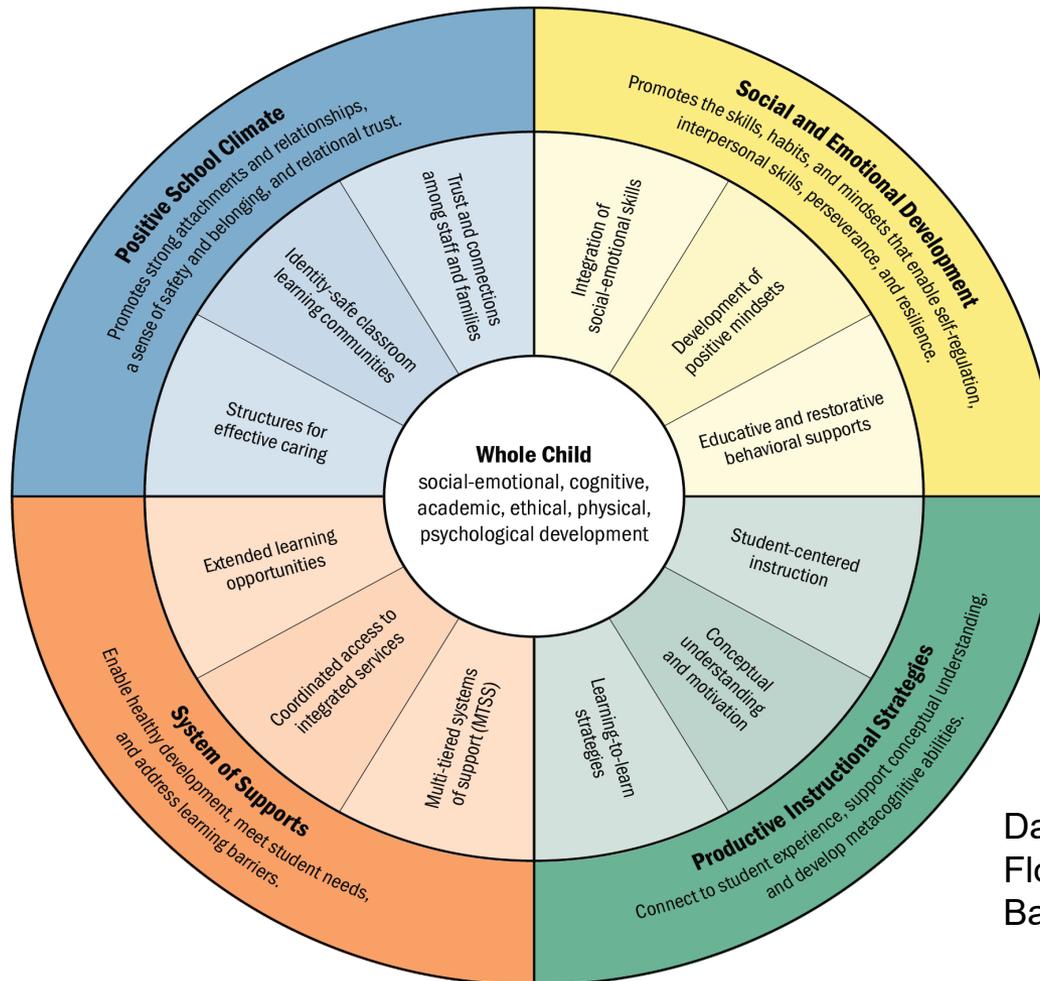
- Secure relationships
- Rich, stimulating environments
- Back-and-forth conversation



Social, emotional, affective, and cognitive processes are neurobiologically linked.

Science of Learning and Development (SoLD) practice principles

A Framework for Whole Child Education



Darling-Hammond,
Flook, Cook-Harvey,
Barron, & Osher, 2019

School climate and SEL

School climate is the physical, academic, social, and disciplinary environment

- Culture, norms, goals, values, practices, characteristics of relationships, and organizational structures.
- Disparities in how students experience school climate creates inequities and alienation; inclusive, culturally competent school climates helps everyone.
- Positive school climates are protective during school transitions.



SEL is the process of learning and building competencies

- Understand and manage emotions.
- Set and achieve positive goals.
- Feel and show empathy for others.
- Establish and maintain positive relationships.
- Make responsible decisions.



School climate and SEL have been studied separately

School climate

- Policies, procedures, and norms
- Cultural context
- Physical environment
- Partnerships with families and community



Social and emotional competence

- Social and emotional skills
- Values
- Perspectives
- Identities

Research on SEL and school climate shows positive effects on both

School climate programs

Sense of belonging

Relationship skills

Emotion regulation

Self-efficacy

SEL programs

Classroom and school environment

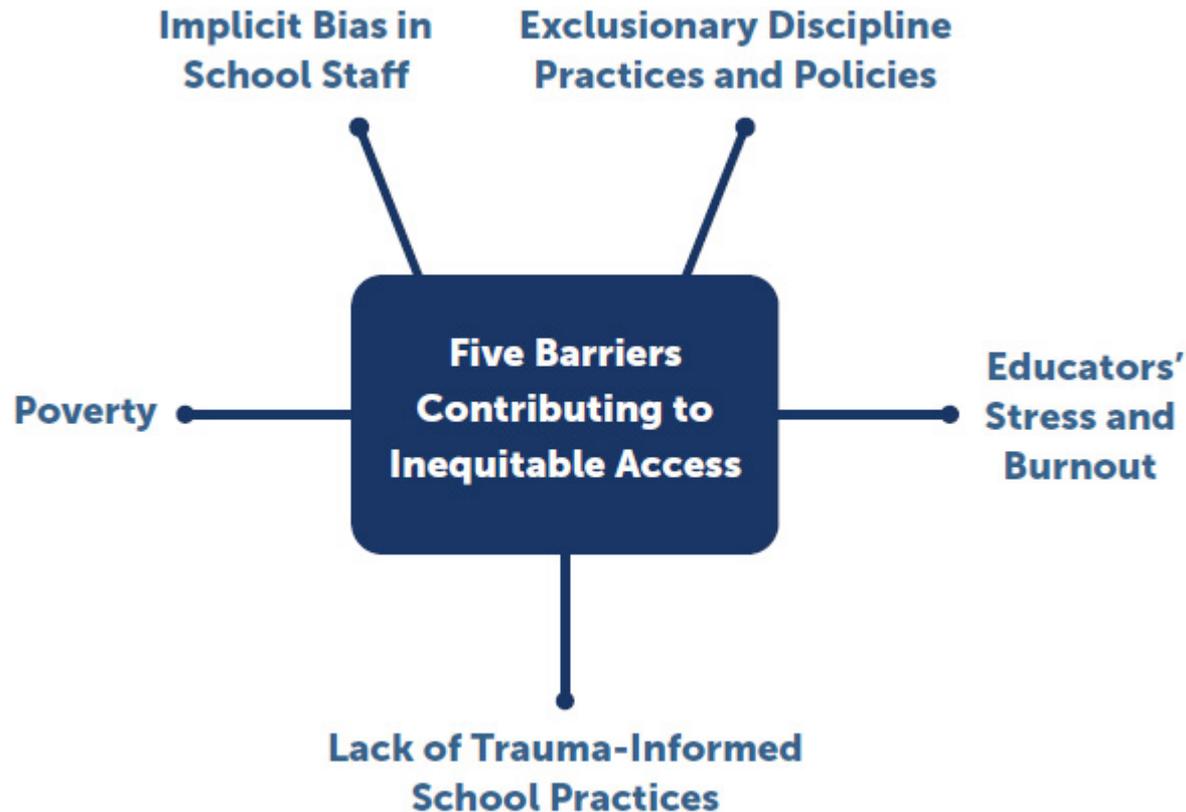
Sense of belonging

School bonding

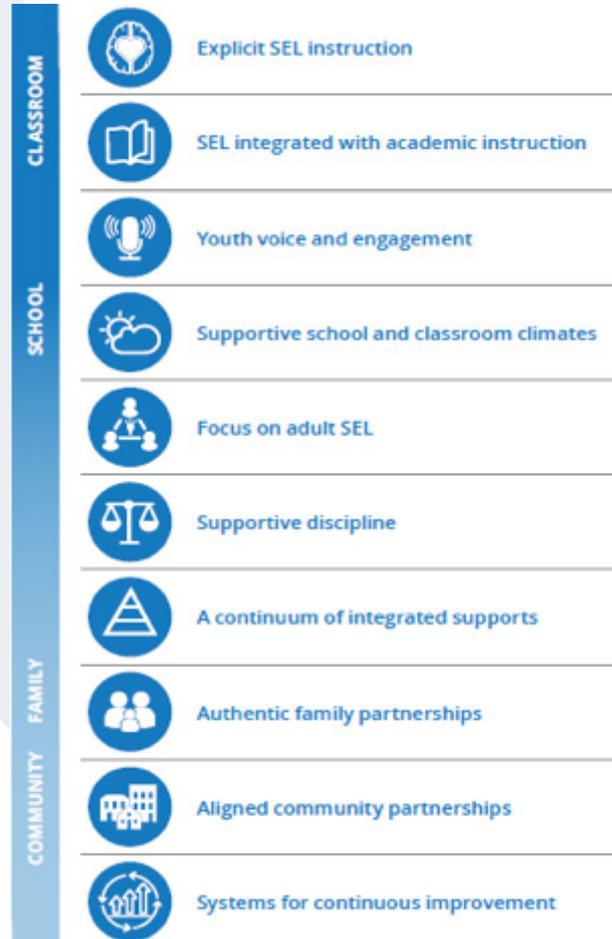
Positive behavior

Academic achievement

Barriers to equitable, high-quality SEL



Systemic schoolwide implementation of SEL



The integration of school climate and SEL

Four Factors in a School's Environment that Affect Students



Research shows four primary conditions in a school's environment can have a positive or negative effect on students, including their academic outcomes and attendance record.



Safety

- Physically, emotionally and identity-safe environment
- Low-risk environment
- An absence of microaggressions and stereotype threat
- Respectful



Connectedness & Belonging

- Meaningful connection between adults and students
- Cultural respect, inclusiveness, and responsiveness
- Positive peer relationships
- Belonging and membership
- Sense of support



Academic Challenge

- High goals and expectations
- Connection to life goals
- Culturally responsive & engaging
- Robust opportunities to learn
- Strong individual motivation
- Developmentally appropriate

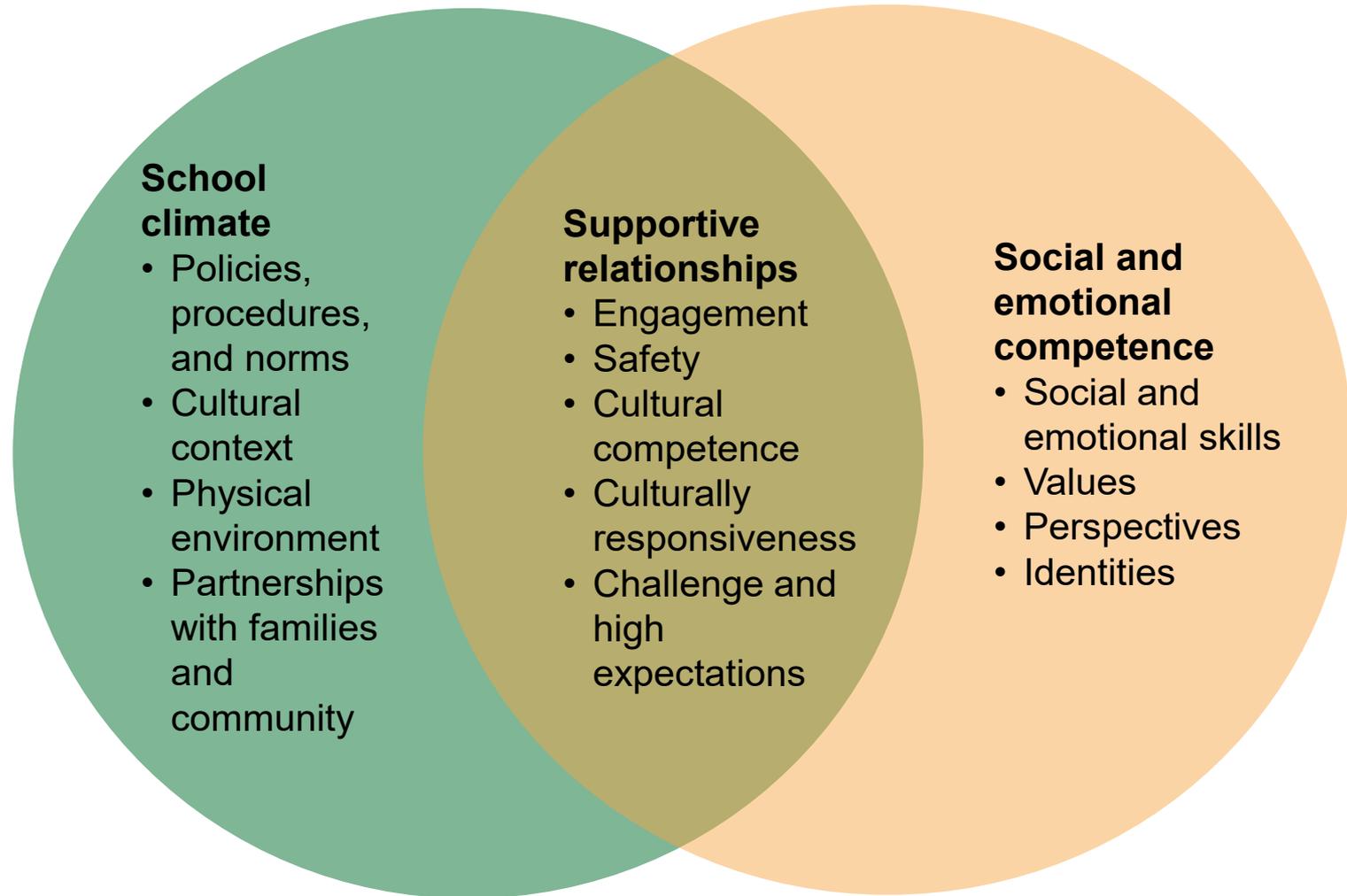


Social & Emotional Support

- Attention to student development, experience, and circumstance
- Support of young people's potential
- Humble, persistent, responsible, and empathetic educators
- Creativity and collaboration modeled and valued
- Growth mindset
- Social and emotional learning and support

SOURCE: Conditions for Learning (CFL) Reference Guide, National Clearinghouse on Supportive School Discipline

Conditions for SEL



Build Cultural Competence

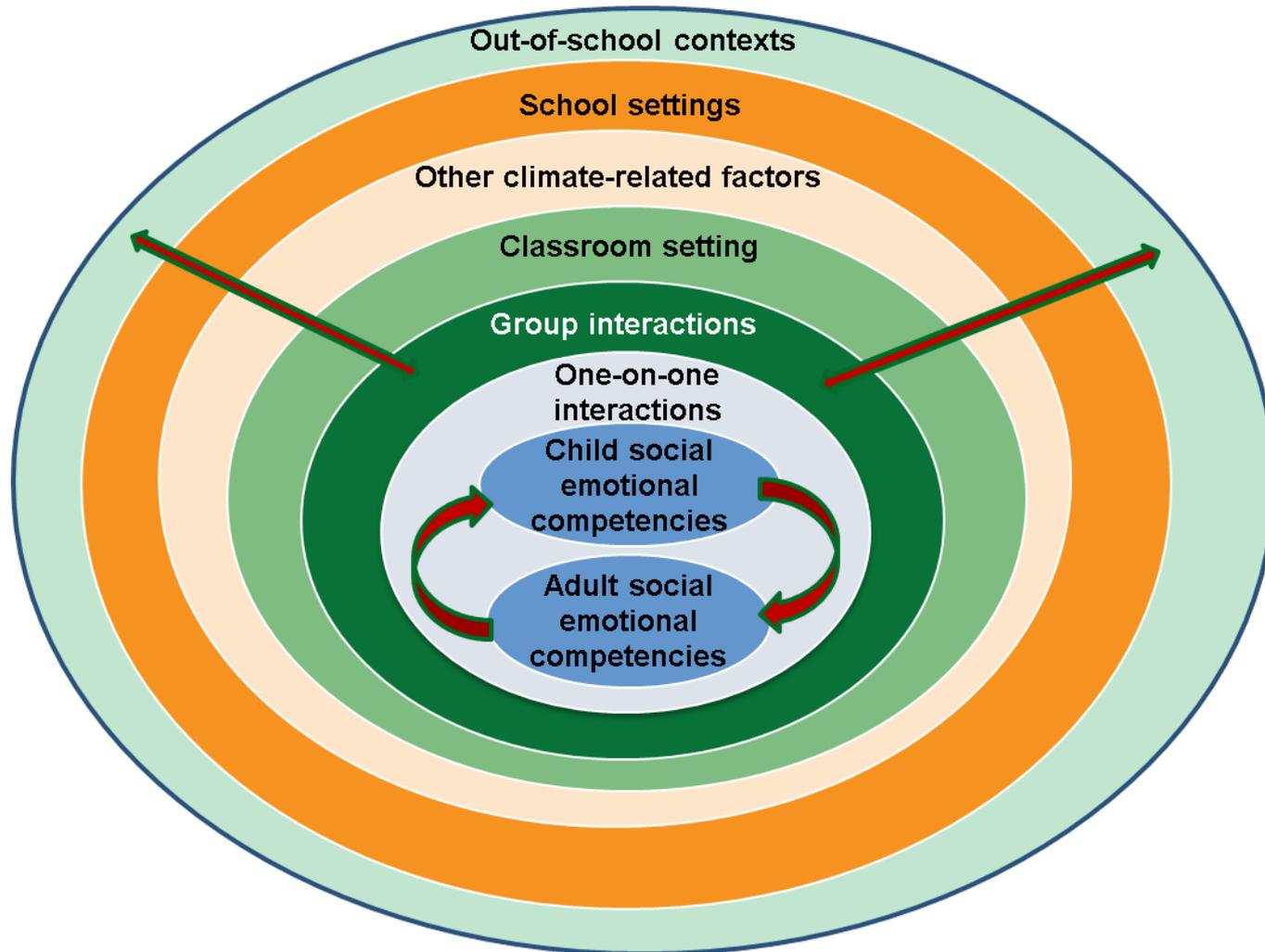
Engage in self-awareness & self-reflection

Recognize the impact of individual and social identities & bias

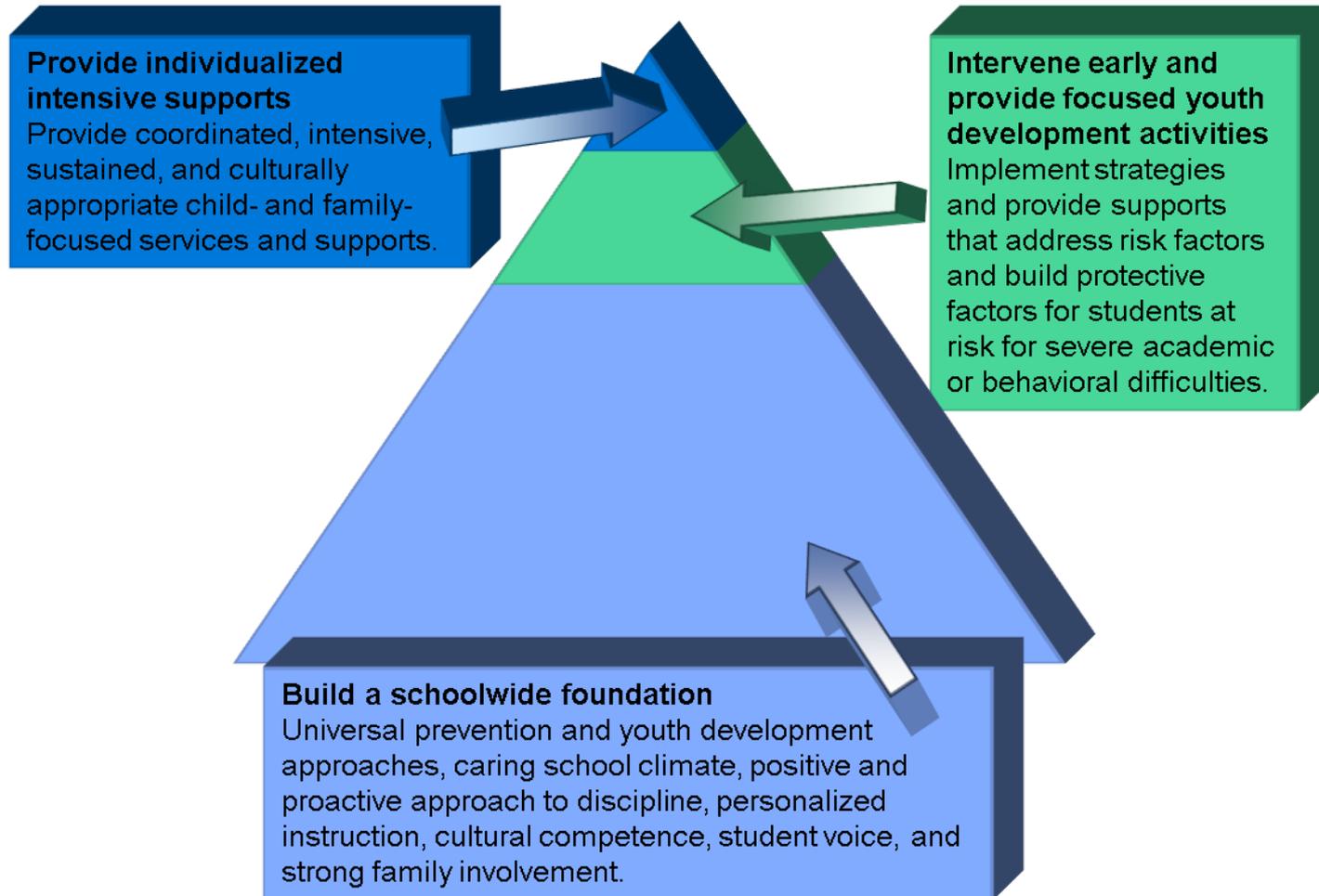
Understand the impact of power and privilege in context

Model SEL competencies

School climate and SEL are interactive, co-influential, and occur in all settings

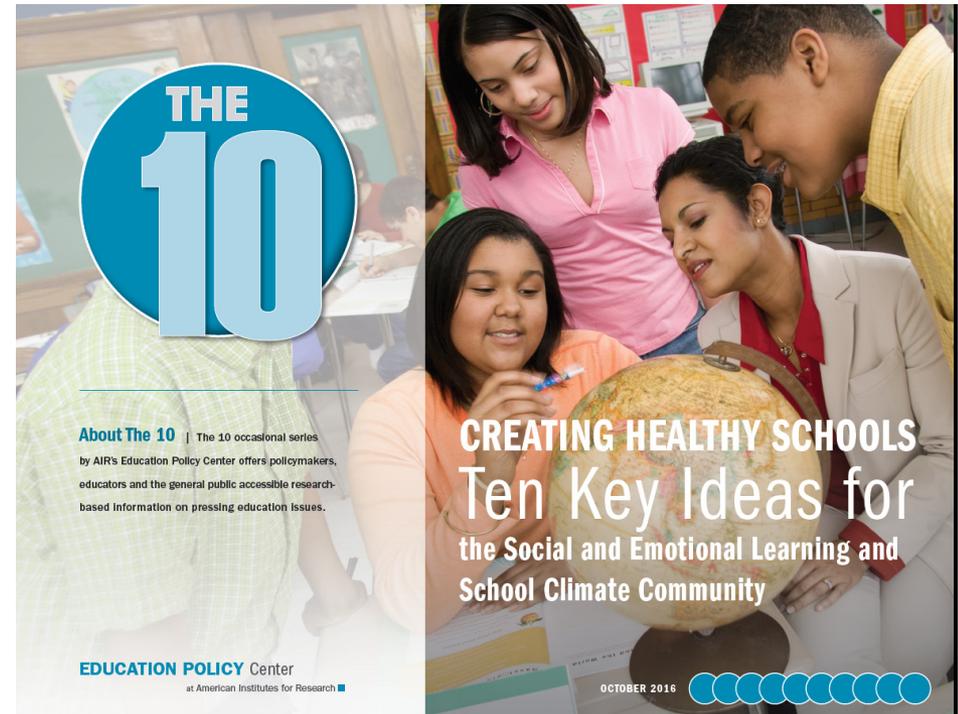


Work at three levels



10 key ideas for SEL and school climate integration

1. Focus on equity
2. Be systemic. Be holistic. Be practical.
3. Create a unified message.
4. Spread the word.
5. Invest in professional development.
6. Incorporate student leadership.
7. Involve families and community.
8. Identify what we know and don't know.
9. Improve assessment.
10. Act quickly and strategically.





District implementation of school climate and social-emotional learning policy

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Improving school discipline

- Discipline policies
- Multi-tiered supports
- Positive approaches



Targeted programs and strategies

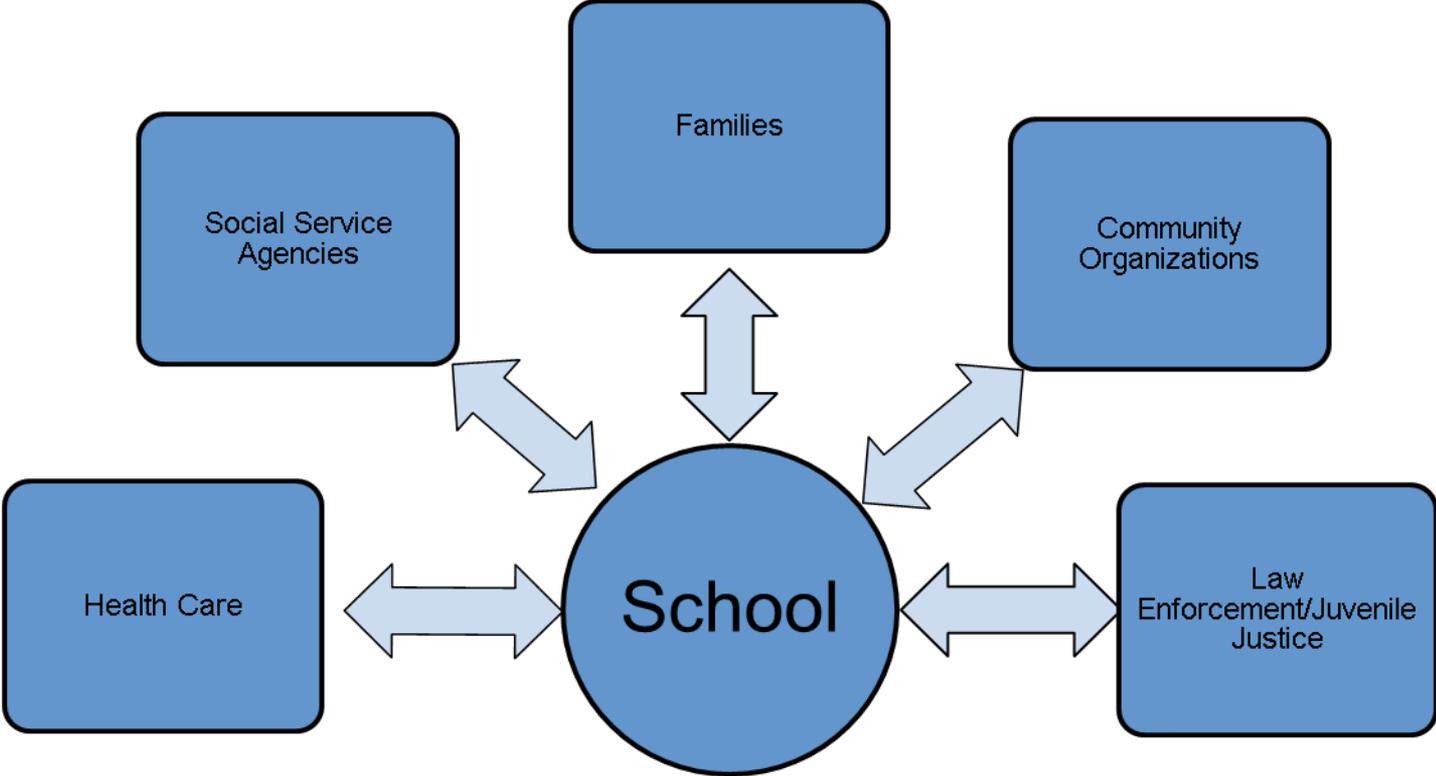
- School climate standards
- Bullying prevention
- Social and emotional learning
- Character education
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Trauma-sensitive approaches
- Student voice/Student leadership

Culturally responsive practices

- School climate and equity
- Creating bias-free and respectful school environments
- Culturally responsive teaching



Interagency collaboration and stakeholder engagement



Assessing school climate

