



COLLABORATIVE FOR ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

CASEL is partnering with Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility (<http://www.morningsidecenter.org/>) and the Inner Resilience Program (<http://www.innerresilience-tidescenter.org/>) to assist the Youngstown and Warren City School Districts in developing a sustainable district wide implementation of social and emotional learning. The two-year demonstration project, *Skills for Life* involves the implementation of the 4Rs (Reading, Writing, Respect, and Resolution) curriculum, a research-based classroom curriculum for developing students' social and emotional skills developed by Morningside Center and a component that focuses on cultivating the adults social and emotional competencies including mindfulness based practices for themselves and their students based on the work of The Inner Resilience Program. The American Institutes for Research in the Behavioral Sciences (AIR) (<http://www.air.org/focus-area/education/?id=8>) are also one of the collaborators as evaluators of the project. A related effort at Youngstown State University and also involving CASEL is designed to build local capacity to expand and sustain SEL with professional development for trainers and faculty in the area by integrating SEL competencies into several of the undergraduate methods courses for education majors.

Skills for life is funded by a grant from the US Department of Education, and sponsored by Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio's 17th Congressional District. The program is intended to serve as a model for system-wide implementation of Social and Emotional Learning at the district level. This approach to district-wide SEL implementation has been championed by Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan (LINK below) and supported with federal funding to improve the quality of life and learning in the area. **“Rebuilding our education system isn’t just about making sure young people are academically prepared, it’s about making sure we are cultivating healthy and compassionate young people. It’s about helping children develop an inner compass, a touchstone, that will help them navigate the rough waters of childhood, and then adulthood, in America.”** said Congressman Ryan. **“Social and Emotional Learning is a transformative strategy that needs to be an integral part of every child's education.”** http://timryan.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=300:july-17-2009-congressman-tim-ryan-secures-over-2-million-dollars-for-health-and-education-program&catid=32:2009-press-releases&Itemid=61

Through this project and evaluation of it by AIR, CASEL will gain additional experience in district-wide implementation through a partnership model. “What is happening in Warren and Youngstown of integrating a researched based SEL Program for students with an evidence based model of transformational professional development for the adults in children’s lives is key in assuring long term sustainability and expansion of this work.” said Linda Lantieri, founding board



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member of CASEL, who is helping to lead this effort with CASEL in the Youngstown and Warren School Districts.