# The Power of Social Wellness on Positive Student Outcomes: A Social-Emotional Learning Perspective

Prepared for the LCEEQ Conference, February 11, 2019 Chiaki Konishi, Yanghua Huang, Tracy Wong, Xuedi Liu, & Chloe St. Onge-Shank Social-Emotional Development Research Group (SED-RG), McGill University

#### What is social-emotional learning (SEL)?

- 5 core components:
  - Self-awareness,
  - Self-management,
  - Responsible decision-making,
  - Relationship skills, and
  - Social awareness (CASEL, 2019)
- According to research (e.g., Durlak et al., 2011), these components have social, emotional, behavioural, and academic implications.

#### Schools can support students' SEL skills by implementing SEL programs

- E.g., RULER approach (The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence)
- Other SEL programs

## We can promote SEL skills by forming a partnership with parents (School-family partnership, SFP)

- Important to promote SFP because it has social-emotional and academic implications
- Involves 3 major domains:
  - Two-way home-school communication,
  - o Family involvement at home, and
  - Family involvement at school (Albright & Weissberg, 2010)
- For effective SFP to occur, educators and teachers must:
  - 1. Share responsibility
  - 2. Be clear and specific about what needs to be done
  - 3. Focus on enhancing student outcomes
  - 4. Provide opportunities for students to practice at home and school
  - 5. Have ongoing communication that is child-centered, constructive, clear and concrete (Garbacz, Swanger-Gagne, & Sheridan, 2015)

#### **Examples of SFP within the SEL context**

- Two-way home school communication
  - Introduce parents to SEL curriculum, inform them of program goals and lessons
- Family involvement at home
  - Provide parents with activities, materials, or strategies that are aimed to reinforce students' learning at school

<sup>\*</sup>Relevant activity will be held.

- Family involvement at school
  - o Involve parents at the classroom, school, or community-based level

### Importance of belonging in SEL

- Trying to belong
- Group fit

#### Roles of teachers' communications in SEL

- Productive communication:
  - Recognizing and accepting
  - Social responsibility
  - Problem solving
  - Inviting
  - Addressing the situation
  - Active listening

#### **SEL** resources

- CASEL website
- SEL resource finder

Contact info: Chiaki Konishi, PhD, RCC (chiaki.konishi@mcgill.ca)

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