

Instruction

Student Social and Emotional Development

PREFACE: Recognizing that children's social development and emotional development are essential underpinnings to school readiness and academic success, the Illinois legislature passed the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003. This Act requires school districts to "develop a policy for incorporating social and emotional development into the district's educational program." It also requires protocols for responding to children with social, emotional, or mental health problems that impact learning ability. Each district must submit the policy to the ISBE by August 31, 2004.

Student social and emotional development shall be incorporated in the District's educational program and shall be consistent with the social and emotional development standards to be contained in the Illinois Learning Standards. The objectives for addressing the needs of students for social and emotional development through the educational programs are to:

1. Enhance students' school readiness, academic success, and use of good citizenship skills;
2. Foster a safe, supportive learning environment where students feel respected and valued;
3. Teach social and emotional skills to all students;
4. Partner with families and the community to promote students' social and emotional development; and
5. Prevent or minimize mental health problems in students.

LEGAL REF: Children's Mental Health Act of 2003, 405 ILCS 49/1 et seq.

CROSS REF: 6:270 (Guidance and Counseling Program), 7:100 (Health Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services)