



## Naperville Community School District #203

Naperville Community School District 203 is located in the western suburbs outside of Chicago, serving nearly 17,000 EC12 students. The district is a model for the integration of social and emotional learning (SEL) into all aspects of systemic continuous improvement. Using a comprehensive SEL plan to guide and inform its efforts, the district has built a comprehensive SEL professional learning plan, actively engages parents in supporting SEL in the home, implements a comprehensive curriculum that includes explicit instruction and systemic integration of SEL skills into content delivery, and ensures that each classroom and school has a positive climate and culture.

Core beliefs articulated in the district's strategic plan include: (1) All students need a balance of academic and social-emotional learning; (2) Students learn and apply SEL skills when they are explicitly and intentionally integrated into daily lesson plans; (3) A positive school culture and climate are the foundation for all SEL; and (4) All stakeholders are responsible for contributing to the ongoing development of SEL skills. Additionally, the district's Comprehensive Equity Plan depends upon five key pillars: systemic transformation of culture; courageous and equity-centered staff; equity-centered schools and classroom practices; perpetuating systems of equity and opportunity; and family and community empowerment.

SEL-related curriculum and assessment in Naperville involves implementation of a comprehensive Early Childhood through 12th grade SEL curriculum. In alignment with Illinois state standards, the district curriculum embeds SEL standards into content curriculum maps. Following initial curriculum implementation during the 2017-18 academic year, SEL teacher leaders began piloting various SEL measurement tools with a major focus upon student SEL strengths as a guide for teachers' planning and implementation of lessons. Students' acquisition of SEL skills is reported to parents on a report card that assesses if a student is beginning, approaching, or secure in their SEL skills.

The district also emphasizes the critical importance of effective professional learning. For example, in advance of its SEL curriculum implementation, all educators in the system received two years of professional learning to prepare them for a successful and sustainable launch. Naperville provided all educators with at least three learning modules each year, emphasizing the why, what, and how of SEL and strategies for using SEL curriculum maps and resources. Naperville has also integrated SEL skills into its comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). It provides opportunities for Professional Learning Communities to identify gaps in learning and provide appropriate intervention as needed to address students' academic, cognitive, and SEL skills gaps.

Naperville Community Unit School District 203 was also selected for Lighthouse status for its comprehensive approach to parent and community engagement. When the SEL curriculum launched in 2018-19, for example, the district collaborated with groups of parents and community members to develop "SEL Snapshots" for each grade level. These resources provide parents and guardians information regarding SEL skills their children will be learning for that year and resources to leverage in

the home environment. Similarly, the district's "203 in Focus" initiative involves frequent community engagement sessions, keeping stakeholders informed of the plans, programs, and procedures in place in Naperville 203 through live-streamed presentations with district and local experts.

Finally, the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) represents the philanthropic arm of the community. Its vision is to "raise and grant funds for programs that enhance and enrich the educational experience of students." This funding stream involves contributions from foundations, businesses, educational professionals, and individual donors. The NEF now identifies SEL as a category for one of their annual grants to support individual SEL projects. Also, Naperville has a highly successful SUCCESS Celebrate-Educate-Empower Event. In partnership with the district's Black/African Families Parent Organization, the district ensures that parents receive support to have the knowledge, skills, and resources to address their children's unique mental health needs extending from the pandemic and recent civil unrest over the past few years.