

Transformative Social and Emotional Learning



Lesson Spark Tool

About This Tool

This tool is designed to support K-12 teachers across all content areas as they integrate Transformative Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in their classrooms. Steps 1-3 of the Lesson Spark Tool offer guiding questions around the key processes of reflection, integration, and lesson-planning, and Step 4 offers space for teachers to design their own Lesson Sparks. As collaborative learning is essential to the fidelity and sustainability of Transformative SEL, this Tool is designed to be used in community with fellow educators.

Step 1: Reflect on Guiding Principles

Use the following guiding questions to reflect on the strengths and skills you currently bring to enacting Transformative SEL guiding principles in your classroom.



Culturally Responsive

How do I create a classroom environment that promotes critical thinking about cultural perspectives and fosters intercultural understanding and respect among students?

What I am already doing ...

Something I am committed to trying next ...



Community Responsive

How am I being responsive to the range of community experiences, strengths, needs, and aspirations in my classroom?

What I am already doing ...

Something I am committed to trying next ...



Strengths-based

How do I draw on my students' identities, experiences, and ways of knowing as assets in the classroom?

What I am already doing ...

Something I am committed to trying next ...



Trauma Informed

How do I create a consistent, positive, and healthy social and physical environment to support the ability of my students to self-regulate and learn?

What I am already doing ...

Something I am committed to trying next ...



Grounded in Neuroscience

How do I model a growth mindset to emphasize the academic potential of all students and discourage notions of fixed intelligence?

What I am already doing ...

Something I am committed to trying next ...

Step 2: Choose an Instructional Entrypoint

Now that you have reflected on how you are enacting guiding principles in your classroom, pause to consider how you might like to embed Transformative SEL into your content-area instruction. Common entry points into this work include Aligning Transformative SEL to Content Standards, Integrating Transformative SEL through Student-Centered Instruction or Building a Classroom Culture and Climate for Transformative SEL.

For each standard, **choose one instructional approach** to explore using the following question: How might you integrate the following Transformative SEL standards through your preferred approach?

Self-awareness & Identity

Content Alignment Student-centered Instruction Classroom Climate and Culture

Self-management & Agency

Content Alignment Student-centered Instruction Classroom Climate and Culture

Social Awareness & Belonging

Content Alignment Student-centered Instruction Classroom Climate and Culture

Relationships & Collaborative Problem-solving

Content Alignment

Student-centered Instruction

Classroom Climate and Culture

Responsible Decision-making & Curiosity

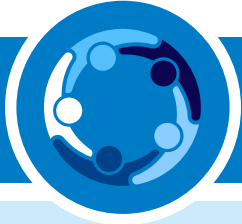
Content Alignment

Student-centered Instruction

Classroom Climate and Culture

Step 3: Build a Foundation for TSEL Instruction

After you have chosen an instructional focus, consider how you may use the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Signature Practices to meet Transformative SEL and disciplinary learning outcomes.



Inclusive Welcome

How might this practice support my content learning goals?

How might this practice support my relationships with students?

How might this practice support my overall classroom environment?

What peer or systemic supports would help me try this out?



Engaging Strategy

How might this practice support my content learning goals?

How might this practice support my relationships with students?

How might this practice support my overall classroom environment?

What peer or systemic supports would help me try this out?



Intentional Close

How might this practice support my content learning goals?

How might this practice support my relationships with students?

How might this practice support my overall classroom environment?

What peer or systemic supports would help me try this out?

Step 4: Make It Your Own

After you have determined how you can integrate your curricular focus into Signature Practices, consider how these strategies might look in your own classroom. Design one Signature Practice for your classroom using the following guiding questions. Refer to the Teacher's Guides to Transformative SEL for examples specific to [Arts](#), [ELA](#), [Health](#), [Math](#), [Science](#) and [Social Science](#).

Grade Band

Signature Practice

Choose 1: Inclusive Welcome Engaging Strategy Intentional Close

Context

How does this Signature Practice fit into my learning arc?

Student Experiences & Identities

How might I draw on students' cultural experiences and identities as assets for learning?



Content Connections

What are the main content standards for this lesson?

Transformative SEL Connections

What is a Transformative SEL standard that would deepen the content learning?

Learning Outcome

What learning outcome do I expect that interweaves content and Transformative SEL standards?

Classroom Format

How are students engaging in learning?

Time

How long do I anticipate this activity taking?

Teacher Moves

What is my instructional plan?

Visual/Supporting Material

What resources might be helpful to me as I plan?

References or Attributions