

Social Emotional Learning Education School Programs

Purpose: To foster compassion in children's relationships with both humans and animals, alike. Social Emotional Learning through humane education: to deter bullying and acts of violence during school age years to deter entering the judicial system and becoming violent adults against family members and the community at large. Public mental health and safety preventative measure.

Support:

- Currently thirteen states have humane education programs.
- FBI research has linked childhood animal cruelty cases with acts of violence throughout adulthood.
- FBI crime data supports evidence that animal abuse and/or cruelty is a precursor or occurs concurrently with child and domestic abuse
- Animal abuse is connected to other larger crimes committed against humans
- Statistics: Fifty three families with some form of child abuse, sixty also had animal abuse occurring. Rose to 80% when child was physically abused. Source: BeAKidsHero
- Seventy one of battered women report that their animals have been threatened or killed by their abusive partner. Source: Violence Against Women

Proposed legislative action:

1. To add to NRS 388 to require social emotional learning education programs be included in education curriculums, starting with kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools.

In Congress:

The field is watching closely the 2020 appropriations bill moving through the House, which includes \$260 million in funding for SEL. The funds would support research, teacher professional development, mental health professionals in schools, and community schools.¹

Other relevant bills include:

- In July 2019, Reps. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) introduced the bipartisan Chronic Absenteeism Reduction for Every School (CARES) Act, H.R. 4220. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year and has been found to negatively impact school performance, high school graduation rates, and overall student success into adulthood.
- Also in July 2019, Reps. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) and Mike Bost (R-Ill.) introduced the Teacher Health and Wellness Act, H.R. 4221. This bipartisan legislation creates a pilot study at the National Institute of Health aimed at reducing teacher stress, increasing teacher health, and ultimately boosting student achievement.
- Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) introduced the Social and Emotional Learning for Families Act (SELF Act), H.R. 6120, in June 2018 to increase the capacity of parents, with teacher assistance, to demonstrate and teach children social and emotional skills.
- Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) introduced the Aim Higher Act, H.R. 6543, in summer 2018, which would amend the Higher Education Act and include well-rounded teacher grants that focus on embedding SEL training into teacher preparation programs.

¹ - <https://casel.org/federal-policy-and-legislation/>