



Topical Brief

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

In addition to promoting programs and services that improve academic outcomes, state education leaders identify ways to support the social and emotional health of students, parents, and educators. This topical brief summarizes social and emotional learning (SEL) needs and strategies in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, as outlined in [American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief plans](#).

State Needs

	KY	TN	VA	WV
Support in addressing affects from the COVID-19 pandemic	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support in addressing the needs of student subgroups	✓			
Identifying and examining SEL variables	✓			
Adequate staff to address SEL deficits	✓		✓	

State Strategies

Kentucky	Tennessee	Virginia	West Virginia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convened an SEL Work Group • Trauma Informed Toolkit to support practice • KyMTSS.org to support students needing acceleration • A summer learning plan with guidance for integrating SEL • Developing learning modules for principals to clarify the role of school counselors • Professional learning with strategies to integrate SEL into everyday practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educator emotional support video series for educators • Emotional Support Line for educators • Local education agency (LEA) summer program staffing to address students' mental health needs • Training topics include self-care for educators and relationships in schools • Reopening toolkits to support staff wellness and students' social, emotional, and physical well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on and implementation of SEL and trauma-informed teaching • Increasing school-based mental health providers • Professional development to address social, emotional, and mental health challenges • Wraparound services for homeless children and youth (e.g., trauma-informed care, social and emotional support, mental health services) • Mental wellness supports for school staff and parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Opportunities for Learning and Engagement provides SEL resources • State programs that promote and fund expanded school mental health programs to assist LEAs in developing plans to support staff and students • Support in behavioral and mental health and student support and well-being • LEA-funded projects to place mental health providers in schools

State Support in Kentucky and West Virginia

<p>KY</p> <p>The Kentucky Department of Education's Work Group assesses SEL efforts in K-12 schools and identifies needs</p>	<p>The R5CC team supported the Work Group in developing an SEL survey</p>	<p>The R5CC team supported SEL survey deployment</p>	<p>The SEL Work Group will use survey findings to identify areas for additional investment</p>
<p>WV</p> <p>The R5CC team facilitated a Stakeholder Collaborative</p>	<p>The R5CC team and Stakeholder Collaborative strategized about how to address mental health provider shortages</p>	<p>The R5CC team provided recommendations to the West Virginia Department of Education to address the shortages</p>	<p>The R5CC team developed an infographic and blog on West Virginia students' mental health needs and supports</p>