Kansas Social, Emotional, and Character Development (SECD) Standards

The purpose of the Social, Emotional, and Character Development Standards is to provide schools a framework for integrating social-emotional learning (SEL) with character development so that students will learn, practice and model essential personal life habits that contribute to academic, vocational and personal success. It is about learning to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to problem solve effectively, to value excellence, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Core Beliefs

• Personal management and relationship skills are vital in all aspects of learning and of life.
• Students are most able to act in respectful and responsible ways when they have learned and practiced a range of social, emotional and character development skills.
• Effective social, emotional and character development skills support academic achievement in students and constructive engagement by staff, families and communities.
• Students learn best in a respectful, safe and civil school environment where adults are caring role models.
• Bullying/Harassment Prevention and safe school initiatives are most sustainable when embedded systemically in whole school Social, Emotional, and Character Development (SECD) programming.

College and Career Ready Goal

Students who are college and career ready must identify and demonstrate well-developed social-emotional skills and identified individual and community core principles that assure academic, vocational, and personal success. Students MAY be described as:

• They demonstrate character in their actions by treating others as they wish to be treated and giving their best effort.
• They assume responsibility for their thoughts and actions.
• They demonstrate a growth mindset and continually develop cognitively, emotionally and socially.
• They exhibit the skills to work independently and collaboratively with efficiency and effectiveness.
• They strive for excellence by committing to hard work, persistence and internal motivation.
• They exhibit creativity and innovation, critical thinking and effective problem solving.
• They use resources, including technology and digital media, effectively, strategically capably and appropriately.
• They demonstrate an understanding of other perspectives and cultures.
• They model the responsibility of citizenship and exhibit respect for human dignity.

Character Development

**Definition:** Developing skills to help students identify, define and live in accordance with core principles that aid in effective problem solving and responsible decision making.

**Rationale:** Our schools have the job of preparing our children for American citizenship and participation in an interdependent world. Success in school and life is built upon the ability to make responsible decisions, solve problems effectively, and to identify and demonstrate core principles.
**SECD Standards and Instructional Examples**

For more information contact:
- Kent Reed, School Counseling Consultant, Academic/Personal-Social/Career Integration Coordinator, kreed@ksde.org
- Sue Kidd, Coordinator, Kansas Character Development Initiative, skidd.kschared@gmail.com

---

**Personal Development**

**Definition:** Developing skills that help students identify, understand and effectively manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviors.

**Rationale:** Personal and academic success are built upon the ability to consider thoughts, understand feelings and manage one’s responses. Personal thoughts and feelings impact management of experiences and determine behavior outcomes.

- **Self Awareness** - Understanding and expressing personal thoughts and emotions in constructive ways.
  - A. Understand and analyze thoughts and emotions
  - B. Identify and assess personal qualities and external supports

  - K-2 / 3-5 / 6-8 / 9-12

- **Self-Management** – Understanding and practicing strategies for managing thoughts and behaviors, reflecting on perspectives, and setting and monitoring goals.
  - A. Understand and practice strategies for managing thoughts, and behaviors.
  - B. Reflect on perspectives and emotional responses.
  - C. Set, monitor, adapt, and evaluate goals to achieve success in school and life.

  - K-2 / 3-5 / 6-8 / 9-12

---

**Social Development**

**Definition:** Developing skills that establish and maintain positive relationships and enable communication with others in various settings and situations.

**Rationale:** Building and maintaining positive relationships and communicating well with others are central to success in school and life. Recognizing the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others leads to effective cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution.

- **Social Awareness**
  - A. Be aware of the thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of others.
  - B. Demonstrate awareness of cultural issues and a respect for human dignity and differences.

  - K-2 / 3-5 / 6-8 / 9-12

---

- **Interpersonal Skills**
  - A. Demonstrate communication and social skills to interact effectively.
  - B. Develop and maintain positive relationships.
  - C. Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts.

  - K-2 / 3-5 / 6-8 / 9-12