



Capturing Social and Emotional Learning Program Needs Assessment

Before planning and designing your social and emotional learning program, your team should conduct a thorough needs assessment to gather data on student needs and interests. Use the tables below to record needs and priorities. (The Y4Y Prioritization Chart, available for download, can help you prioritize needs.)

School-level data provide the “big picture” of student needs. Analyze needs by reviewing the school climate survey, attendance and behavior reports, community data, and any other readily available data. Then use the guiding questions and examples in this table to facilitate team discussions.

Guiding Question	School-Level Data	Information Source	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
When looking at school-day data (e.g., school improvement plans, school climate survey results, community data, attendance and behavior reports), what are the overall trends? What is needed for improvement?	Over 50 percent of students need to build positive competencies based on the school-wide social and emotional learning assessment.	Schoolwide social and emotional learning assessment results	Medium
Based on community data, where do you see areas of concern or a need for improvement?	Youth arrests for possession of drug and alcohol have risen by 30 percent in the past year.	Report issued by local law enforcement agency	High
Based on school attendance reports, what trends do you see that need to be addressed?	15 percent of students have been absent 10 or more days this year.		
Based on behavioral reports, what trends do you see that need to be addressed?	Disciplinary referrals have risen by 50 percent this year.		





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Student-level data help identify specific areas in which students are struggling, and may provide clues as to why they are struggling. Analyze student-level data and identify the top three to five areas for improvement. Then use the guiding questions and examples in this table to facilitate a team discussion.

Guiding Question	School-Level Data	Information Source	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
What specific social and emotional skills do students need to master?	<p>70 percent of students who participated in a focus group about their behaviors demonstrated an inability to identify their emotions or make accurate self-perceptions.</p> <p>Teachers report that over 50 percent of students show disrespect to their peers and adults every day in class and in corridors.</p>	<p>Student focus group</p> <p>Teacher survey</p>	High
With respect to attendance issues, what do counselors, parents and teachers say are the most common reasons for absences?	<p>60 percent of reported absences occur during the spring semester.</p> <p>The school nurse reports unusually high rates of flu during the spring months.</p>		
With respect to discipline referrals, what specific behaviors are being displayed most often?	Individual student behavior reports indicate that 40 percent of students received disciplinary referrals due to fighting.		





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Student voice data provide information on topics and activities that interest students. Analyze data collected through student surveys, interest inventories and other formal and informal methods to identify topics and activities that interest students. Use this table to record the top three to five interests. Use the guiding questions and examples to facilitate a team discussion.

Guiding Question	School-Level Data	Information Source	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
What activities do students say they want, and which can you accommodate through your social and emotional learning program?	Seventh-grade students expressed the greatest interest in martial arts, journalism, gardening and cooking.	Student interest survey	High

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Other important data can help your program provide support to students and their families. Analyze any data available from family surveys, reports from local social service agencies, and others to help identify issues families face that a social and emotional learning program could address. Use the guiding questions and examples to facilitate a team discussion.

Guiding Question	Other Important Data	Information Source	Priority (High, Medium, Low)
What family needs can a social and emotional learning program help to address?	90 percent of family members work a full-time job. 80 percent of families have two or more school-age children.	Family survey	Medium
What other needs do students have that a social and emotional learning program could address?	85 percent of students do not have access to healthy meals during the summer months. 50 percent of students gain weight over the summer months.	Community health agency survey	High

