

Student Supports, an Integral Component of Basic Education

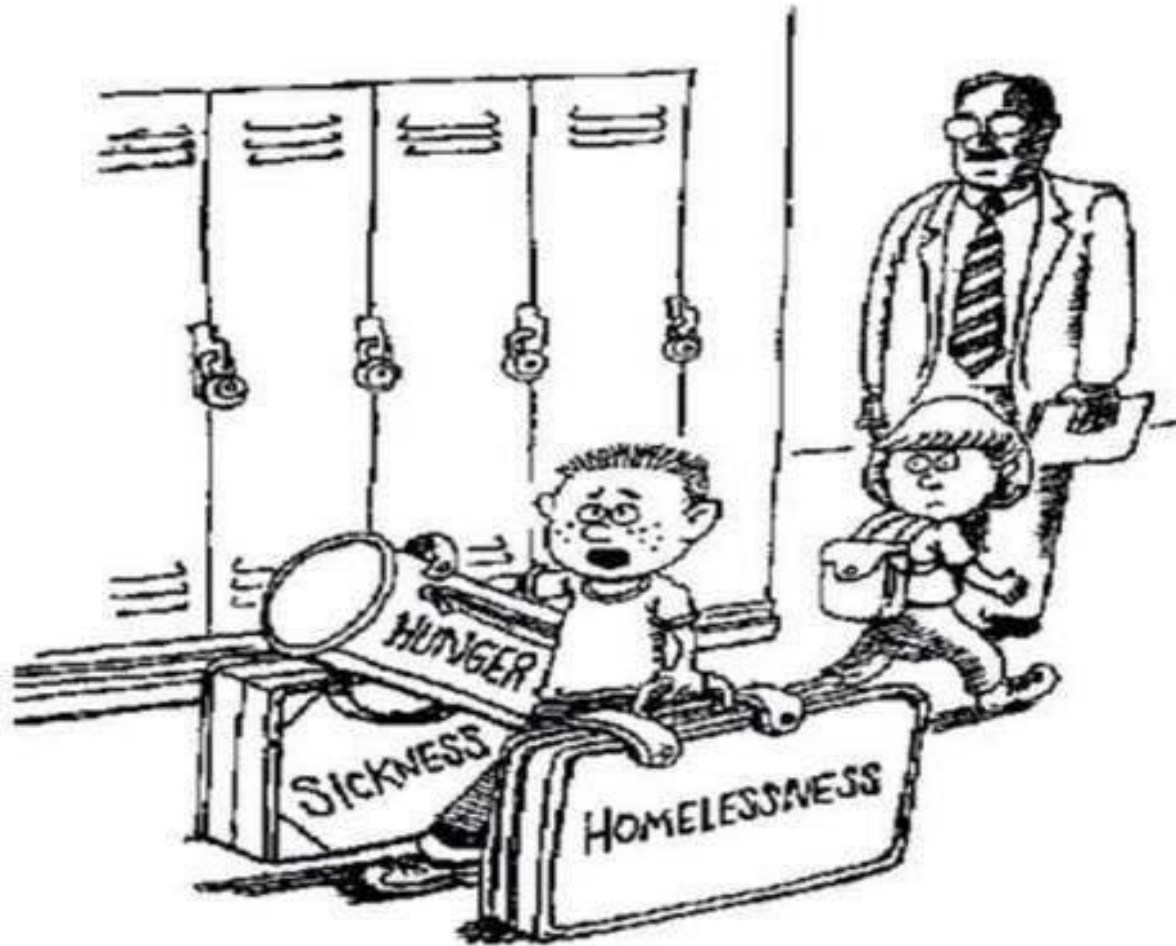


Addressing Academic and Non-Academic
Barriers to Learning

Our Students

- 44% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch
- About 10,000 youth are currently placed in foster care
- Nearly 40,000 youth are homeless
- Nearly 147,000 students in receive Special Education services
- As many as 20% percent of youth are in need of mental health interventions

**“Could someone help me with these?
I’m late for math class.”**



Lost Learning Time

- ✓ Incidents of bullying and harassment in school
- ✓ Anxiety and depression
- ✓ Chronic absenteeism
- ✓ Overuse of discipline practices
- ✓ Use of aversive behavioral interventions

Essential for Student Learning

Safe and supportive school environment

+

Specific skill development

+

Optimal physical and emotional health

Improving School Climate

Whole school strategies that address school climate and universal student well-being build the capacity of the entire school community to recognize and respond to the unique social-emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of students

What is Social Emotional Learning?

SEL is the educational process, through which students acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to:

- Understand and manage emotions
- Set and achieve positive goals
- Feel and show empathy for others
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Make responsible decisions

Why support and teach these skills in school?

- Emotions affect how and what we learn
- Schools are social places - relationships provide foundation for learning
- Reduces barriers to learning such as stress and anxiety
- Increases school connectedness and essential skills
- Aligns with the academic agenda of schools
- Essential for success in school and life

A Call to Action

- Integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) within the K-12 education system through implementation of benchmarks, technical assistance, and guidance with instruction techniques.
- Ensure adequate staffing of school psychologists, counselors, school social workers, behavioral interventionists, mental health providers, school nurses, speech and language pathologists, and family engagement personnel.

Continued...

- Require teacher and principal preparation programs and professional development to include instruction in the understanding, use, and development of Social and Emotional Learning skills and effective classroom management strategies.
- Create a coordinated system-of-care approach that involves engaging appropriate agencies, community partners and families to expand available services and supports for students who are dealing with trauma, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Stay Informed

- ✓ Go to **www.SELforWA.com** and join the grassroots coalition and stay informed
- ✓ Like our Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter **@SELforWA**
- ✓ Spread the word! Let your elected officials and school administrators know that you support Social Emotional Learning!