

SEL Resolution

WHEREAS, the Craven County Schools (CCS) Board of Education is committed to providing high-quality education that fosters student well-being, academic success, and positive character development while maintaining transparency and alignment with community values; and

WHEREAS, the goals and understanding of the term "positive character development" have been usurped within the educational system by the term "Social and Emotional Learning" (SEL); and

WHEREAS, SEL is now conflated with the social and politically progressive, educational organization called the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL); and

WHEREAS, the emergence of "Transformative SEL" on the CASEL website promotes equity, justice, and critical examination of power structures, identities, and systemic inequities related to race, class, and culture, underscoring CASEL's political and social progressivism, thereby further imbuing SEL with political and social controversy; and

WHEREAS, these terms are unnecessary for the essential work of fostering positive outcomes in student development, as evidenced by CCS's successful use of "character-based teaching and learning" to describe similar initiatives without the controversy associated with SEL and CASEL; and

WHEREAS, SEL and CASEL are prominently referenced on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) webpage, often side by side, and in Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) documents, both of which local districts must publicly reference and display, thereby causing many in the public to question the objectives and goals of school districts regarding the implementation of SEL, creating an otherwise avoidable disadvantage for public schools when competing in the school choice marketplace against vouchered private schools, homeschools and charter schools that are not required to reference or otherwise implement SEL; and

WHEREAS, the unpopularity of SEL and CASEL with the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) and certain community segments further exacerbates challenges for public education, and separating from these terms would better align state and local resources and programming with neutral, effective language such as "teaching character or citizenship" for the relevant MTSS component;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Craven County Schools Board of Education that:

The Board urges the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to discontinue the use of "Social and Emotional Learning" (SEL) and references to the CASEL framework in all public-facing documents, websites, and MTSS-related materials, replacing them with neutral terminology such as "character education" or "citizenship development" thereby maintaining broad based public support for these core educational goals without political connotations.

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The Superintendent is directed to communicate this resolution to NCDPI leadership, relevant state legislators, and other stakeholders, advocating for these changes to support public schools statewide.

The Board affirms CCS's ongoing commitment to using "character-based teaching and learning" in district materials and encourages other districts to adopt similar approaches for consistency and public support.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this __th day of June, 2026, by the Craven County Schools Board of Education.