

Social Emotional Advisory Committee (SELAC)

Summary Update for the School Committee

February 4, 2021

The SELAC has met a total of three times this school year. The committee is made up of representatives of the school committee, parents, district and school administration, community members, teachers and a student representative with a total of xx members. The committee members' combined experience and expertise in Social Emotional Learning is vast and impressive.

Two work groups were formed and have met multiple times between SELAC meetings. One work group is focused on the assessment of Social Emotional Learning while the other has targeted resiliency.

Based on the work of these two subcommittees, SELAC makes the following recommendations to the district:

1. Implement an SEL assessment tool (district-wide) that can capture a wide range of SEL outcomes at the student, classroom and school level, as opposed to a risk assessment for individual students. SELAC recommends that the district explore the following three measures as potential tools for SY 21-22:
 - Washoe County School District Social and Emotional Competency Assessments (WCSD-SECAs)
 - The Deveraux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)
 - School Climate Walkthrough (comes out of Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and is directly related to the RULER approach that BPS is using, with the limitations noted in the report below.

(Please refer to the subcommittee's [SEL Measurement Tool Review report](#) for more detailed information)

2. Maximize the utilization of RULER district-wide and ensure implementation fidelity at all levels.
 - Increase messaging that prioritizes the social and emotional well-being of our students at all levels.
 - Immediately form a RULER Task Force at BHS that is made up of students, teachers and administrators whose charge is to customize the implementation of RULER at the high school level that ensures student and teacher buy in as well as use of RULER strategies with fidelity.
 - Communicate with families on a regular basis regarding RULER tools and strategies.
 - Prioritize RULER for Professional Development for staff.

(Please refer to the subcommittee's [Resiliency report](#) for more detailed information)

Related to both points, SELAC members encourage the district to consider using the RULER School Climate Walkthrough assessment this winter/spring to begin to address the concerns regarding the current status of mental health/increased stressors among our secondary students, and provide a tool which will help to direct additional interventions as well as the more complete roll-out of RULER at the secondary level.