A Tale of Two SEL Collaboratives: One Local, One National

Silicon Valley Out-of-School-Time Collaborative
Elise Cutini and Jeannie Johnson

SEL Challenge
La’Ketta Caldwell, Charles Smith and Haviland Rummel
Why Invest in SEL?

There is a disconnect between the demands required for life success and the limited supports our education system offers to help youth prepare to meet those demands.

- Critical for a thriving life
- Unmet challenge – big opportunity
Silicon Valley Out-of-School-Time Collaborative

A collaboration between:

• 9 regional OST organizations with strong academic programs and a desire to improve

• 4 local funders

• 2 local evaluation and program quality consultants

• $2.6M over six years
SEL Challenge

• The SEL Challenge focuses on demystifying the ingredients of SEL by amplifying the expertise of exceptional programs and bringing their best practices into common use across the field.
SEL Challenge Partners

A collaboration between:

• expert practitioners delivering exemplary SEL programs in 8 unique communities
• a team of researchers
• a national foundation.
SEL Challenge Purpose

The SEL Challenge was designed to:

1. Identify promising practices for building SEL skills with vulnerable adolescents, and

2. Develop a method for taking these practices to scale in thousands of out-of-school time settings.

The promising practices are called Standards for SEL Practice. The method is called the SEL Strengths Builder.
SEL Challenge Findings

• SEL Field Guide
  – Preparing Youth to Thrive: Promising Practices for Social and Emotional Learning

• Technical Report
  – Preparing Youth to Thrive: Methodology and Findings from the SEL Challenge

• Virtual Learning Community and Strengths Builder Content
  – SELpractices.org
SEL Challenge Participants

• Eight OST Offerings in Very Different Organizations (Annual Operating Budget <$.5M - $25M)
• Front line staff are experienced and diverse (89% BA or more; 6.5 yrs at org; 28% AfA, 12% Hisp, 40% Wht).
• Offering quality was very high on widely used measure (PQA=4.5)
• Youth served were vulnerable adolescents aged 12 to 19
• Offering content was varied (boat building, community activism, arts)
• SEL Skills: Emotion Management, Empathy, Teamwork, Initiative, Responsibility, Problem Solving
What the Partnerships Have in Common

I Belong, I Can Improve, I Will Persist! Nurturing Social-Emotional Learning in Out-of-School-Time
November 10, 2016
Sobrato Nonprofit Center, Redwood Shores, CA
And What is Different

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Continuous Improvement in Social-Emotional Learning: What it Takes to Excel
College Track

- 8 Full Time Staff in East Palo Alto
  - Several part time and some volunteers
  - About 100 FT staff nationally
- Serve Low Income, First Generation
  - 400 students in high school and college
  - Rising 9th through college completion
- Key programs for SEL
  - Academic Mindsets
  - Wellness Initiative
Silicon Valley Children’s Fund

• Located in San Jose, CA
• 18 Full time staff, 11 interns, 10 volunteers, 75 mentors
• Foster youth and former foster youth ages 14 – 30 in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties
• Youth-led, strengths based, future focused, trauma informed training and supervision for staff, partners, volunteers and teachers
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

• Located in Milwaukee, WI
• 780 staff and 1,290 volunteers
• 96% African American youth served
• Key Programs for SEL
  • Youth Works
  • Can You Hear Us Now?
Lessons Learned
Finding a Focus
Questions from the Audience