



**Prospect Heights School District 23  
Board Memorandum  
Action Items**

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**Date:** April 9, 2026

**Subject:** SEL Curriculum Adoption - Action Item

**Prepared by:** Dr. Craig Curtis, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning &  
Dr. Chrystyna Sroka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

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This memo summarizes the investigation and recommendations of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee for the early childhood through eighth-grade curriculum adoption.

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum Committee**

The Prospect Heights School District 23 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum Committee is responsible for recommending instructional materials to help our students learn in accordance with the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards. The assistance of numerous people is critical in this recommendation. Without their generous support, this process would not be possible. For their knowledge, dedication, and passion, we thank the following individuals:

**Eisenhower:** Stacy Roth (K), Nicole Dorcey (1st), Abra Zaveduk (Social Worker), Shawna Hoots (Psychologist), Alex Ayala (Psychologist), Lisa Schmidt (Instructional Coach), Dr. Luke Lambatos (Principal)

**Ross:** Tina Stasi (3rd/4th), Megan Rieger (Social Worker), Leslie Jasper (Instructional Coach), Stephanie Gage (Principal)

**Sullivan:** Tina Stasi (3rd/4th), Lisa Alan (4th), Kristene Ganek (Instructional Coach), Rachel Curran (Social Worker), Beatrice Chen (Social Worker), Traci Meziere (Principal)

**MacArthur:** Kasey Godek (Middle School), Stephanie Ritter (Middle School), Katrina Peterson (SAIL), Kelly Brockway (Instructional Coach), Kelsey Cain-Nelson (Social Worker), Joel Grafman (Psychologist), Mike Kaper (Asst. Principal), Dr. Camron Nystrom (Principal)

**District:** Dominique Guza (Director of Student Services), Dr. Chrystyna Sroka (Assistant Superintendent for Student Services), Dr. Craig Curtis (Asst. Supt. for Teaching & Learning)

The SEL Curriculum Committee was developed in September of the 2025-26 school year to discuss the standards and decide on materials that are best aligned with the standards and fit our needs within the district. Throughout this school year, we have continued to investigate a variety of vendor offerings in coordination with our current program's strengths and needs, and investigated the standards. As a part of the program review, we taught sample lessons, reviewed intervention materials, and interacted with vendor websites.

We reviewed all of the materials in terms of their alignment with a rubric we created. The rubric helped us determine each vendor's alignment with the needs of our district. Based on the rubrics, we are making the recommendations in the chart below.

The successful implementation of any program includes the proper amount of staff development and training. However, we have a head start with this program as it is a readoption that most staff members have utilized in the

past. Nonetheless, we will be developing plans to support the implementation of these materials. Professional development will be provided over the summer and throughout the next school year. Teachers will have access to the teacher guides and materials before they leave for the summer to ensure they are prepared and utilize their planning time effectively. This is made possible due to the availability of digital resources. We will be working with the committee to ensure we are intentional in planning implementation alongside staff for all students. We believe that this philosophy will lead to a stronger community that focuses on stronger social-emotional connections and relationships between students, together as a team.

## Instructional Materials Selection Process

During the 2025-2026 school year, the Social Emotional Curriculum (SEL) Committee used the following process to select instructional materials that address the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards.

	In Progress	Upcoming	Completed	Notes
Study of the SEL Standards			x	
Develop the selection criteria and rubric to evaluate the materials			x	
Research SEL materials			x	
Request samples and apply the rubric			x	
Narrow the selection			x	Our committee narrowed to 4 programs before selecting 2 finalists.
Develop questions for each vendor			x	
Vendors were invited to present materials and address questions			x	Presentations took place in January and February.
Invite other teachers who are not on the committee to peruse materials and provide feedback			x	Teachers who were not on the committee were given access to the materials and encouraged to provide input to their colleagues.
Pilot some of the lessons			x	Our committee members and colleagues reviewed the digital materials and intervention lessons with their students.
Receive quotes from the recommended publisher(s)			x	
Determine the final recommendation			x	The recommendation is to approve Second Step by the Committee for Children.
Negotiate pricing of materials			x	

Present and recommend the final selection(s) to the Board of Education			x	The goal is to bring our committee's recommendation to the BOE for approval in April, so we receive digital access to the materials before summer.
Create outward-facing curriculum maps	x			Curriculum maps help teachers plan the scope and sequence of the unit of study. They also give parents a general timeline, standards, and themes taught throughout the school year.

**Costs:**

<p><b>Second Step by the Committee for Children (EC - 5th)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 years of unlimited digital access to the Second Step Program for all 4 District 23 schools.</li> <li>• 1 Early learning curriculum kit (includes 6-year license for an EC class)</li> <li>• Additional early childhood kits are available through former licensing packages.</li> <li>• The bullying program for grades K-5 is available through the previous licensing package.</li> <li>• The bullying program for grades 6-8 is included in our current licensing package.</li> <li>• The EC-8 Tier 2 and 3 intervention program is included in our current licensing package.</li> </ul>	<p>\$24,000</p> <p>\$ 593</p>
<b>Total Cost of 6-Year SEL Curricular Materials for EC - 8th Grade</b>	<b>\$24,593</b>

**Recommendation:** The administration recommends the purchase of the following SEL curricular materials:

- Second Step by the Committee for Children - \$24,593

**Rationale:** The Committee for Children's Second Step curriculum is recommended because we believe it is the best material for District 23 students and teachers. The product was chosen because it provides extensive content and instructional strategies, while also providing the support the standards require, as well as intervention materials to support diverse learners. Because the program is a renewal, it is seen as easy to navigate for our staff members. Teachers are comfortable supporting the curriculum in multiple ways that students understand.