



## Should I Assess My Students on SEL?

We get it. Test fatigue is real. Yet following years of remote learning and the isolation brought on due to the pandemic, there has never been a more important time to gauge our students' social-emotional wellbeing.

Luckily, we make it easy for you to do this!

We've embedded a social-emotional learning (SEL) assessment right into our preset SEL curriculum. The norm-referenced and validated Social-Emotional Competency Assessment (SECA) was developed through a collaboration among the Washoe (IL) County School District (WCSD), the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), and the University of Illinois at Chicago through an Institute of Education Sciences Research-Practitioner Partnership grant.

Best practice is for students to complete the SECA at least twice per year - once at the beginning of the year, and once at the end of the year. If you want to monitor student progress, you can also add an optional mid-year assessment as well. This will not only help you show the progress your students have made, it will also provide additional SEL intervention in specific competencies based on each individual student's need.

For more information about the SECA, check out the frequently asked questions.

### **Does Suite360 for Students have an SEL Assessment?**

Yes! We use the Social-Emotional Competency Assessment (SECA) developed through a collaboration among the Washoe (IL) County School District (WCSD), the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), and the University of Illinois at Chicago through an Institute of Education Sciences Research-Practitioner Partnership grant. Originally developed for students in grades 5-12, we use a modified version for students in grades K-4.

### **Is there an additional cost for the assessment?**

No, there is currently no additional cost.

### **How often is the assessment given to students?**

It is best practice for students to complete the assessment at least twice a year: Once at the beginning of the school year, and again at the end of the school year. There's also an optional mid-year check-in that can be completed.

### **Why should schools use an SEL assessment?**

By using a social and emotional learning (SEL) assessment, schools can:

- + Demonstrate efficacy of the program being used.
- + Identify a specific student's need and develop a plan to address them.
- + Compare individual students or groups of students to each other.
- + Track individual or group changes over time.

### How is the SECA completed?

Students are automatically assigned the assessment as part of the preset curriculum. The SECA is administered entirely online as a “lesson” within Suite360. Students are provided with a series of statements and asked to use a rating scale to identify how easy or difficult they find specific SEL skills.

### How long is the assessment?

The number of questions depends on the grade level.

20 for K-2

20 for 3-5

35 for 6-8

43 for 9-12

### What does the SECA measure?

The SECA measures students’ abilities in the five CASEL competencies; Self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, decision-making, and relationship skills.

### What are some of the questions from the SECA?

*Directions: Please tell us how easy or difficult each of the following are for you.  
Response Options: 1 = Very Difficult; 2 = Difficult; 3 = Easy; 4 = Very Easy*

#### Self-Awareness: Self-Concept

1. Accepting things I can’t control.
2. Knowing when I can’t control something.
3. Knowing how to get better at things that are hard for me to do at school.
4. Knowing when I am wrong about something.
5. Accepting when I am not the best at everything I do.
6. Knowing how I need to study to do well on a test.
7. Knowing why I am feeling nervous about something.
8. Knowing how I think about myself affects how I act.

### How is data stored?

Assessment data is housed on our system. Except for grade level and gender, no additional personally identifiable student information is requested, obtained, or included in relation to the assessment.

### How is SEL assessment data typically used?

1. All data are provided to schools/districts through a dashboard that administrators can view when they log into the system.
2. The data dashboard provides information about how students rated themselves on each CASEL competency. A classification system includes indicating students who are “mastering” the SEL skills assessed, those whose skills are “emerging,” and those who report challenges with their SEL skills. Students in the last group may require additional SEL support.
3. Districts/schools can use data to establish instructional priorities for a school when students rate themselves lower in one or more of the CASEL competencies.
4. Districts/Schools can use data to evaluate student progress over time.

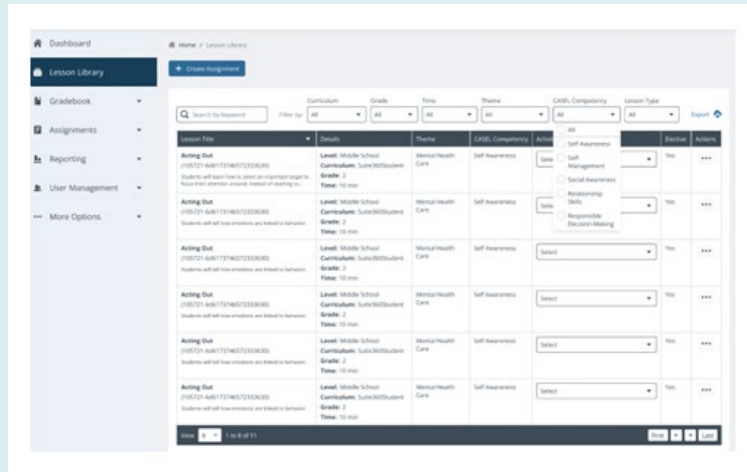
### What kind of reporting is available with the SECA?

Currently, users can see pre, mid-year, and post data and compare those assessment results by student.

Total Survey Completions <b>280</b> 90 -190(-67.86%)		Total Score Average <b>45.41</b> 45.88 +0.47 (1.04%)	
<small>Domain scores are listed below. Click on the scores to view the data.</small>			
Average Social Awareness Score <b>5.35</b> 5.51 +0.16 (2.99%)	Average Social Awareness Score <b>8.06</b> 8.17 +0.11 (1.36%)	Average Responsible Decision Making Score <b>5.49</b> 5.48 -0.01 (-0.18%)	

## I have the data. Now what?

Students who score in the lower half of possible points on the rating scale may require additional SEL instruction and support. For example, a student who scores in the lower half of self-awareness may benefit from additional Suite 360 lessons in self-awareness. You can find these by searching for the competency among the “elective” lessons.



The screenshot shows the Suite 360 Lesson Library interface. It features a sidebar with navigation options like Lesson Library, Gradebook, Assignments, Reporting, and User Management. The main area displays a table of lessons with columns for Curriculum, Grade, Theme, SEL Competency, Lesson Type, and Actions. A search bar and filter dropdowns are visible at the top of the table.

Lesson Title	Curriculum	Grade	Theme	SEL Competency	Lesson Type	Practice	Actions
Acting Out Students will learn how to set an important target to focus their attention instead of reacting to it.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness Social Awareness	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Relationship Skills Responsible Decision-Making	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness	Yes	...
Acting Out Students will set new emotions and think to help them.	Level: Middle School Curriculum: Suite 360/Students	Grade: 2	Mental Health Care	Self Awareness	Self Awareness	Yes	...

## Can the SECA be used for diagnostic or educational placement purposes?

No. The SECA is not designed to be used in this way and does not have the necessary statistical analyses to use it for diagnostic or educational placement purposes.

## Are students required to take the SECA?

No. While we encourage all schools/districts to use the SECA to guide instructional programming and to evaluate outcomes of SEL instruction and support, it is not required. Therefore, students may fully participate in all other lessons even if they do not complete the SECA.

# Additional Reading and Resources:

[Washoe County School District](#)

[CASEL: Measuring SEL](#)

[RAND: How do you Measure SEL?](#)

[Edutopia: Assessing SEL](#)

[Hechinger report: How do you Measure SEL?](#)



## Navigate360

*Building safer tomorrows.*