

**1 - Positive Developmental Relationships:** a learning environment that is supportive, culturally responsive and focused on meaningful connection, relationships and building community.

- a. Teacher-student relationships are a priority for all adults
- b. Culture and identity are valued and explored
- c. Classroom routines and procedures exist
- d. Community building is intentional and encouraged

**1) Conversation/Relationship Based** - Our research shows that the single most important aspect of SEL instruction is the conversation it fosters and the relationships it builds. When students are talking, they are engaged, they are building relationships with peers and educators, and they are connecting the SEL concepts to their lives in meaningful and impactful ways. It fosters an environment where students feel a greater sense of trust, belonging, and significance. This work starts with teachers. Every aspect of our solution is designed to empower teachers with the comfort, confidence, and authenticity to facilitate empowering conversation. This, in turn, creates and nurtures trust and openness, breathing new energy into the classroom and freeing students to share and foster a more connected classroom community.

**2) Adaptable and Culturally Responsive** - Our staff is intentionally diverse with people of color representing 50% of the team and women representing 65%. Our executive leadership team is comprised of 65% people of color and our President is a Hispanic woman. We have an intersectional group of educational advisors and curriculum writers that represent urban, suburban, and rural America. This has resulted in a balanced solution with diverse voices, perspectives, needs, and responses to diverse communities. Our curriculum accurately represents all backgrounds and creates intentional spaces where all cultures are celebrated. Finally, our Resource Hub within the online portal provides districts and the schools with the unique ability to adapt our curriculum to their students' environments. Educators have access to thousands of culturally relevant lessons, videos, games, discussion prompts, and reflection activities. These learning tools can be added to existing lessons and used to create new stand-alone lessons that can be shared and leveraged with team members.

**3) Culture and Identity are valued and explored** – our approach supports culture and identity into every SEL lesson and resource we provide. We made an intentional decision 12 years ago to build a diverse team so we could create a solution that truly engages all students and educators. Our curriculum is also adapted for English Language Learners and students with special needs. SEL only works if it meets the needs of ALL students, and we are committed to continue to lead the market with solutions aligned with this position. Central to all aspects of our solution is a market-leading professional development offering that informs educators and students on how to:

- Recognize individual and organizational diversity.
- Build alliances through collaboration.
- Manage implicit bias behavior in the classroom.
- Practice empathy to foster understanding.
- Develop an inclusive culture that celebrates differences.
- Lead uncomfortable conversations through peacebuilding.
- Create learning opportunities to engage all students.
- Have meaningful conversations that student's value

**2 - Intentional Development of Skills, Mindsets**

**and Habits**- students have consistent opportunities to cultivate, practice and reflect on social and emotional competencies in a way that is developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive.

- a. The 5 SEL competencies are taught, modeled, and practiced
- b. Explicit SEL instruction is provided consistently
- c. All students are exposed to an age appropriate, evidence based SEL curriculum
- d. Student voice is present and encouraged

**4) Deeply Aligned with CASEL** - We are an evidence based SEL solution aligned with CASEL's five core SEL competencies. For the last 8 years, we have restructured our curriculum to drive self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and positive decision making. Our professional development creates a deeper understanding among educators, provides strategies and techniques to model them in hallways and classrooms, and delivers specific and targeted instruction to build these competencies in students.

**5) Ensures Fidelity** - 7 Mindsets delivers its PreK-12<sup>th</sup> curriculum in a systematic, linear way that is comprehensive, coherent, and clear. Each course is comprised of 30 lessons delivered in a scaffolded age-appropriate manner. The entire arc of our curriculum aligns with Blooms Taxonomy to ensure progression and mastery of key competencies. Each course is 30 lessons designed to be taught for 20 to 45 minutes every week over the course of a school year. Additionally, resources are provided to integrate the 7 Mindsets into classroom management and other core academic areas to transform culture and promote greater student achievement, as well as improved behavior and attendance.

**6) Fosters Youth Voice** - 7 Mindsets helps teachers integrate youth voice in the classroom. The lesson format and prompts help teachers practice ways to solicit anonymous feedback from their students to improve their teaching and co-create lesson plans. They show teachers that they can support leadership development when they encourage students to lead activities, lectures, and discussions. 7 Mindsets teaches that students find their voice through their passion and interests and doing projects that demonstrate their mastery on a topic or issue in the class. Students can help lead changes in a school's environment when they serve on decision-making committees in the classroom, school, and district level. When student leadership is encouraged, plans of action, policies, curriculum, and programs will be formed with the student population in mind.

**3 - Rich Instructional experiences-** SEL content and objectives are integrated into rigorous instruction through interactive and collaborative pedagogies.

- a. Academic and growth mindsets are fostered
- b. SEL and academic objectives are aligned
- c. SEL competencies are integrated into instruction, e.g., grade level benchmarks, evident in all subject matter
- d. Grading policies should reflect a competency-based approach to education that is grounded in empowering students to make important decisions about their learning, how they will create and apply knowledge and how they will demonstrate learning.

7) **Is Mindsets-Based** - Our mindsets-based approach to SEL focuses on student perspectives and attitudes. Rather than solely focusing on skill sets, our approach equips students with the self-awareness and decision-making capacity to shape their own outcomes and thrive in an evolving world. Our solution drives the attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful lives, improves mental health, and promotes happiness - an approach that resonates from PK to high school and beyond. Since 2009, The 28 learning objectives defined by the 7 Mindsets have been deeply integrated with:

- The standards as researched and published by The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
- Learning for Justice Anti-Bias Framework
- Mental Health, Mindsets, Wellness and Behavior: The National Health Standards; National Health Education Standards PreK-12. Second Edition. American Cancer Society. 2007
- Healthy. Schools. Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success
- Health Education/SEL Crosswalk: Aligning the National Health Education Standards with CASEL Social and Emotional Learning Core Competencies. SHJAPE America.

8) **Drives Academic, Social, and Emotional Growth** – A multitude of independent studies validate the 7 Mindsets impact. What separates the 7 Mindsets from all other social-emotional learning programs is a measured set of lasting, tangible improvements upon the mindsets of both students and educators. Some key illustrative measurable results include:

- **Study 1 - Improves achievement.** % of at-risk student passing the math portion of the state standardized test increased from 24% to 80%. *Relationship in Math Achievement*, 33-page report, Dr. Mimi Gamel, Kennesaw State University.
- **Study 2 – Improve school culture.** # of disciplinary referrals dropped from over 300 to under 30 in one year, as student engagement and attendance both improved. 17-page report by Dr. Marisha Humphries & Roberto Rivera M.Ed., University of Illinois at Chicago.
- **Study 3 – Improved behavior.** A high school in Florida showed a 42% decrease in the number of school suspensions while the control group high school showed a 100% increase. 40-page report by Independent Researcher Portia Pusey.
- **Study 4 – Improves resilience.** Students demonstrating high levels of resilience increased from 18% to 75%. 160-page report from Dr. Mimi Gamel was peer-reviewed at Kennesaw State University.

See **4) Deeply Aligned with CASEL**

**4 - Environments filled with safety and belonging-** conditions for belonging and emotional safety are created by being responsive to students’ perspectives and needs, affirming all students’ full identities, and establishing structures that create predictability and consistency.

- a. Environments are filled with safety and belonging
- b. School wide discipline policies and practices are instructive, restorative, developmentally appropriate and equitably enforced
- c. Staff and student relationships are evident and valued
- d. Staff relationships are supportive, respectful and collaboration exits
- e. Student relationships are respectful, friendly, and inclusive

9) **Fosters Restorative Practices** - Under the umbrella of SEL and mindset-based learning, 7 Mindsets has a long history of working with schools to deploy restorative discipline and support positive behavior initiatives. Our research has shown a proven ability to reduce office referrals, in-school suspensions, and out of school suspensions and expulsions. It starts with a positive referral process putting attention on what is going right. Many 7 Mindsets schools implementing restorative practices have students reflect and write within a journal what they have learned and what they would do differently. Additionally, the student develops a plan to correct their action and make good with other students and educators.

10) **Promotes Adult SEL** - 7 Mindsets has learned over the last 12 years that Adult SEL is the single most critical element to implementing any SEL Solution with impact. Social and Emotional Learning is only as good as the teacher in the moments they are interacting with their students. We deliver training that inspires those who work with youth to make meaningful connections, in an authentic manner, that fosters deep relationships. We have a unique ability to empower educators with the confidence and comfort required to deliver SEL programs effectively. Our research has driven an extensive focus on adult SEL including:

- **Ridiculously Amazing Schools (RAS)** – a best-selling book that includes an assessment tool to determine the individual and collective efficacy of educational teams. The RAS offering also includes professional development and leadership strategic planning services to address the SEL health of the adults in the building and grow educational teams.
- **7 Mindsets Training** – The best teachers are connected and engaged with the content they are teaching. The same holds true for SEL and is an advantage of the 7 Mindsets framework. One unique aspect of the 7 Mindsets is the positive effect they have on adults as well as the students they teach. Our teacher training is unique in its focus on getting educators to connect the 7 Mindsets to their own lives, find their own personal and authentic story, and develop a personal life plan to promote health and authentic achievement.
- **SELECT Implementation Model** – Our SELECT approach to implementation is a high-touch model that ensures every teacher is providing the resources to grow and expand their capacity with SEL. Not every teacher is confident and comfortable with SEL, but our experience tells us they are all capable. Our SELECT approach ensures we address the needs of all educators and promote Adult SEL and authentic delivery of SEL in the classroom.

See **1) Conversation/Relationship Based**

**Integrated Systems of Supports-** SEL is seamlessly integrated into a continuum of academic and behavioral supports, which are available to ensure that all student needs are met.

- a. Identify and communicate how SEL aligns with existing systems; i.e., MLSS, SAT, PBIS
- b. Align SEL to universal strategies, such as school mental health, restorative practices and/or trauma informed processes
- c. SEL is evident in Out of School programming
- d. SEL is integrated into family and community communications, activities, and programming

**11) Delivers Out of School Programming** - It is often the case that the adults with the greatest impact on a child are a teacher, coach, counselor, or mentor. Since its inception, the 7 Mindsets has extended its programming beyond serving classroom teachers to support youth agencies, community organizations, and after-school programs. The ability to reach out and engage the broader community is essential in fostering environments of sustainable social and emotional growth. An essential ingredient to foster SEL excellence in New Mexico will be programming and coaching for organizations like the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, Junior Achievement, and youth athletic organizations. The 7 Mindsets language is ideally suited for these more targeted environments and is aligned with their core missions and visions.

**12) Supports EVERY Child** - 7 Mindsets made an intentional decision 12 years ago to build a diverse team so we could create diverse solutions to help every child thrive. We have made an organizational commitment to be the leader in the development and delivery of equitable solutions. This means providing curriculum that is culturally responsive and adapted culturally and contextually for English Language Learners. We have developed processes and tools to support every student including all tiers, students with disabilities, and students with special needs. We have worked with districts and schools to support and enable critical processes including ELL/DLI programs, IEPs, MTSS, Restorative Discipline, Trauma-Informed Practices, Talented and Gifted Programs, and Student Mental Health.

**13) Addresses Critical Mental Health Challenges** - In order to help develop a mentally, emotionally, and healthy person, The 7 Mindsets Portal includes topical videos, lessons, and activities that address behaviors that are influenced by mental, emotional, and social well-being. Specifically, we provide customizable resources on many SEL topics so educators and caregivers can help their children thrive and address critical challenges they may be facing including:

- Device and social media usage
- Dealing with adversity and trauma
- Seeking help, guidance, and support
- Vaping, alcohol, and substance abuse
- COVID 19 and mental health
- Depression and suicide
- Bullying (including cyber bullying)
- Anxiety, stress, and self-harm
- Self-Care (exercise, diet, downtime)
- and many more

**Use of Data to Assess Need and Impact-**

Implementation and outcome data are collected and used to monitor progress toward goals and continuously improve all SEL-related systems, practices, and policies with a focus on equity.

- a. Identify, collect and review data, considering your purpose for collecting data
- b. Use of NM SEL Framework to assess implementation
- c. Use of individual reflection tools for all, (students, staff, administration, families) for practice development and continuous improvement

**14) Provides Individualized Measurement Plans** - Fundamentally, 7 Mindsets measures what is most important to individual districts and schools and offers ongoing support, reporting and SEL refinement. Our solution uses data to ensure the best outcomes and to foster and strengthen SEL engagement for students, staff and families. It is essential to assess SEL comprehension and progress. 7 Mindsets partners with schools and districts to offer ongoing progress monitoring of SEL. Using our Data Genius platform and Mindsets assessment tools, alongside other metrics, 7 Mindsets creates and develops individualized assessment and monitoring plans. We work hand in hand with schools and districts to develop a comprehensive progress monitoring and assessment program that seamlessly incorporates individual school assessment priorities and tools, while delivering turn-key templates and reporting functions.

**15) Ensures Progress, Privacy, and Security** - Our data platform is constructed with security and privacy as a chief priority. All data is encrypted, so survey responses are secure. Teachers can send anonymous surveys or individual and classroom-targeted surveys. Those surveys can include a quick check in on classroom or student mood or quickly gauge the understanding, impact and effectiveness of an SEL lesson or video. Check ins and surveys can be administered in a few minutes with real-time results reported to the teacher. As an integrated service, Data Genius can also associate and send assessments with lessons for pre- and post-lesson progress monitoring.

See 8) **Drives Academic, Social, and Emotional Growth**