Every Day Counts Cohort Meeting

January 21, 2026

Logistics

Before we get started,

- 📹 This meeting is being recorded so we can share key takeaways and support those who couldn't attend live.

- 🔇 Please stay muted unless you're speaking, to help reduce background noise.

- 💬 If you have a question or comment, feel free to unmute yourself or type it in the chat—we want to hear from you!

Thanks for helping us create a respectful and engaging space for everyone.

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Meet the Illinois State Board of Education SCTAC team

- **Carl Amos**- Safe and Healthy Climate

- **Nanette Coley**-Safe and Healthy Climate

- **Sarah Littrell**- Supervisor, Wellness and Student Care

- **Theresa Olsen**- Wellness and Student Care

Agenda

- Inclusive Welcome
- Resource Spotlight
- Breakout Discussion
- Announcements
- Intentional Close

The purpose of this cohort

Everyday Counts Illinois

Student Engagement Cohort on Chronic Absenteeism

Building Belonging, Connection, and Equity—One Day at a Time

Chronic absenteeism is more than missed day it's a signal of disconnection. This cohort is about reconnecting students through relationships, equity, and SEL.

Together, we'll share strategies, celebrate wins, and build systems that help every student feel seen, supported, and engaged.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Inclusive Welcome

Rose, Bud, Thorn

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Inclusive Welcome

One **rose**, or something positive that happened this week, is

One **bud**, or something that I'm looking forward to next week, is

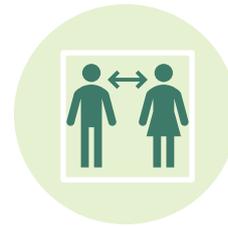One **thorn**, or something that I need help with, is

Source: https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/rose-bud-thorn-activity-and-worksheet

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Rose, Bud, Thorn and SEL Skills

SELF-AWARENESS / IDENTITY

SELF-MANAGEMENT / AGENCY

SOCIAL AWARENESS / BELONGING

RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING / CURIOSITY

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Forming an Attendance Team

CASEL Guidance on Forming Teams

Assembling the Team

Defining Roles and Responsibilities

Build a Strong Dynamic

Assembling the Team

- MTSS
- School Improvement
- Strategic Plan

Current teams

- Funding
- Stipends
- Schedules

Capacity

- Diverse perspectives
- Innovation & learning

Voice to stakeholders

- Many points of view
- Solve problems faster

Reflects community

https://schoolguide.casel.org/focus-area-1a/create-a-team/assemble-an-sel-team/

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
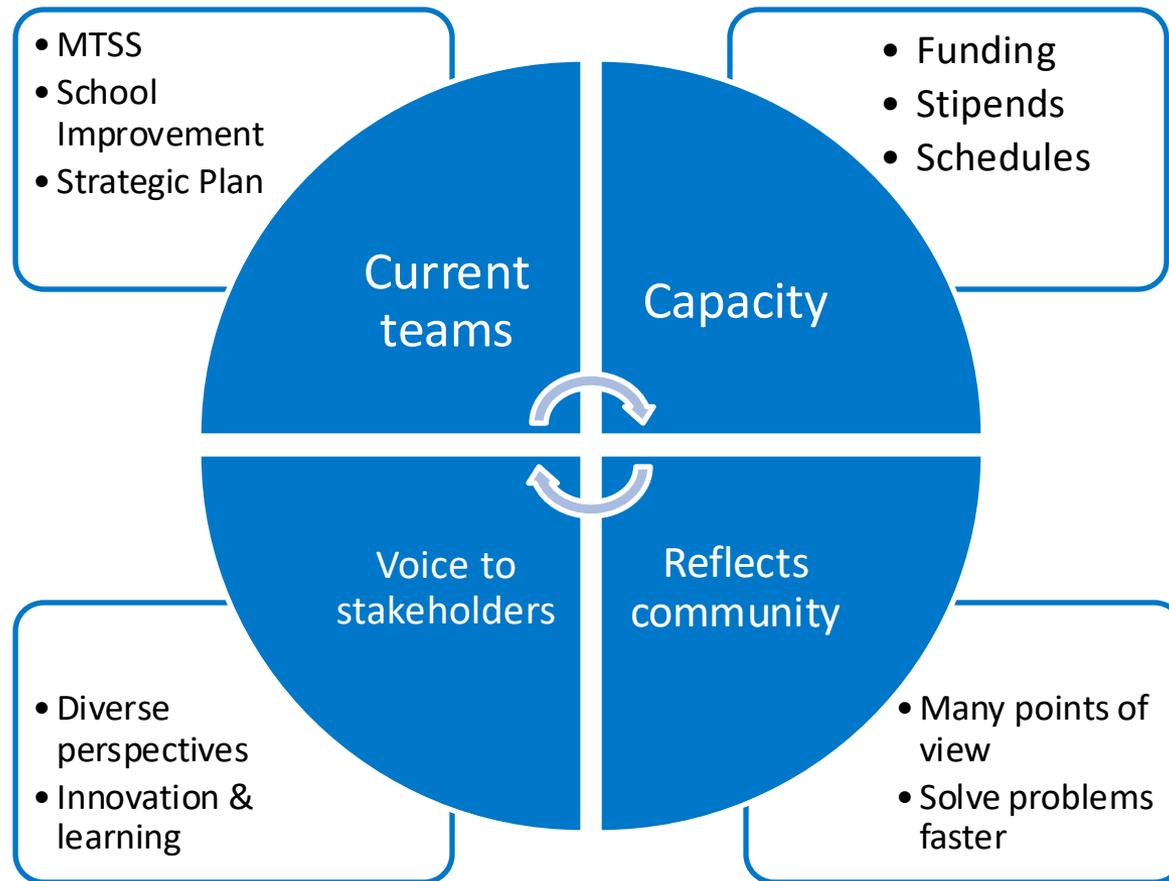
The 5 Functions of an Attendance Team

Organize a Multi-tiered Attendance Strategy

Examine attendance and absenteeism data to assess which groups of students have higher or lower levels of absence

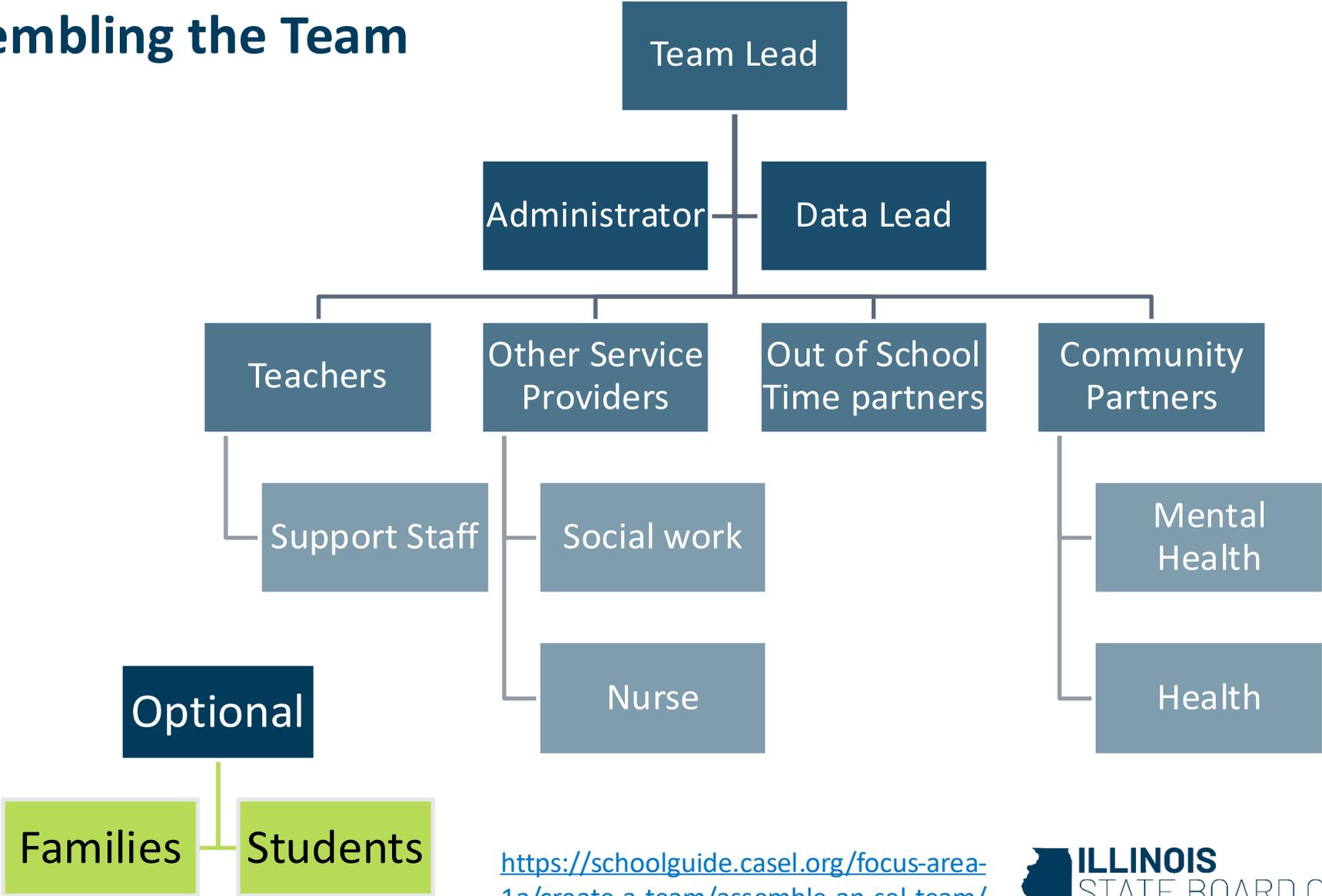Identify Assets, barriers, and Strategies that affect attendance

Mobilize Everyone in the School Community to address attendance
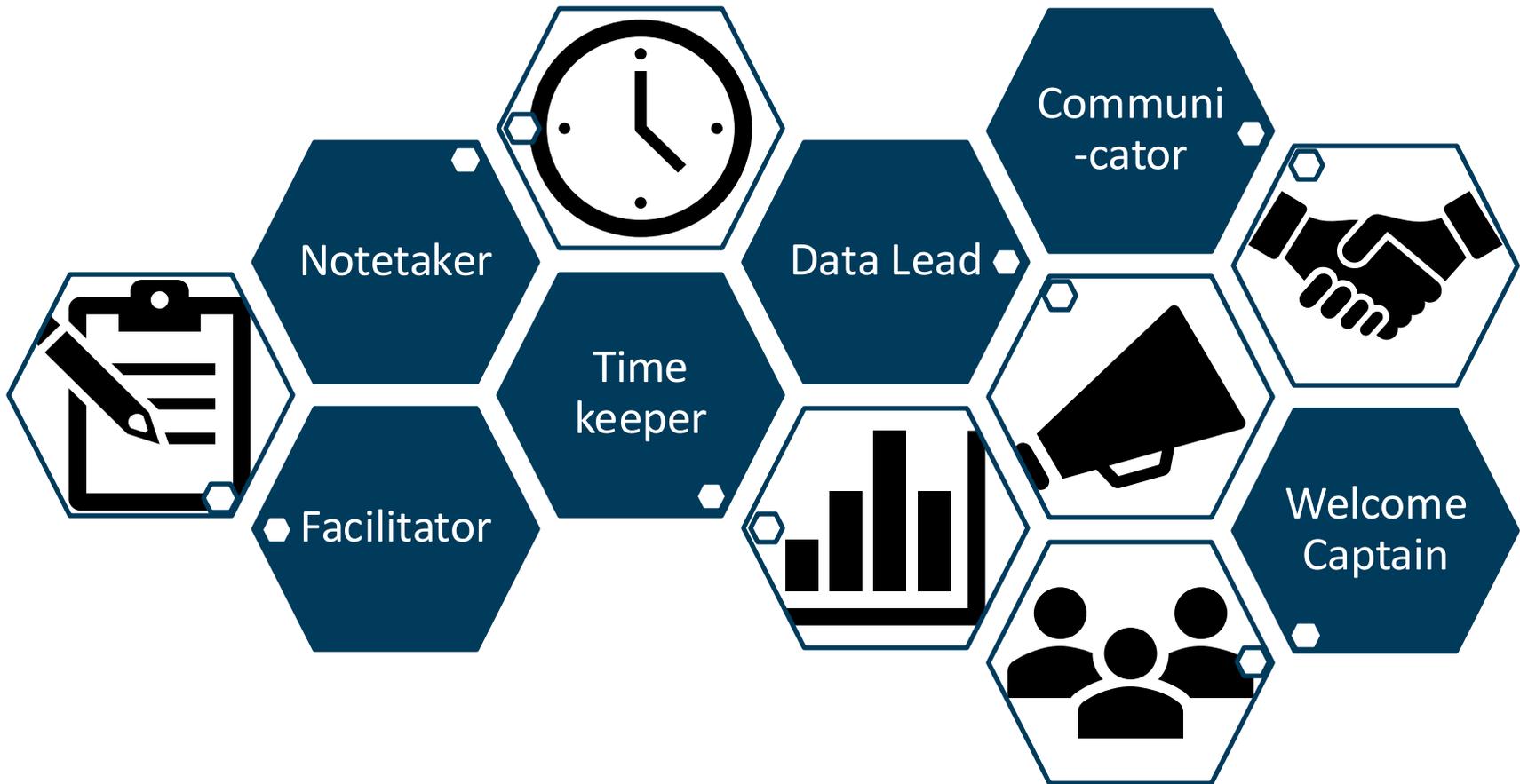
Determine if you are making a Difference

Attendance Works

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Assembling the Team

Team Lead

Administrator — Data Lead

Teachers | Other Service Providers | Out of School Time partners | Community Partners

Support Staff

Social work

Nurse

Mental Health

Health

Optional

Families — Students

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Defining Roles and Responsibilities

Notetaker

Time keeper

Data Lead

Communi-cator

Facilitator

Welcome Captain

https://schoolguide.casel.org/focus-area-1a/create-a-team/define-team-roles-and-responsibilities/

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Build a Strong Team Dynamic

Regular Meeting Schedule

- Monthly
- Whole year

Develop Team working Agreement

- Review and revise as needed

Relationship-Building Routines

- CASEL 3 Signature Practices

Productive Meetings

- Consistent Agenda

Democratic Decision Making

- Team vote
- Whole staff
- All stakeholders

https://schoolguide.casel.org/focus-area-1a/create-a-team/build-a-strong-team-dynamic/

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

16

Developing Team Working Agreements

- Take time on the front end
- Sustainable division of responsibility
- More productive meetings
- Improve team culture
- Value differences, opinion, inclusion
- Review and revise as team evolves

https://schoolguide.casel.org/resource/develop-sel-team-working-agreements/

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Avoid Common Pitfalls

Attendance Works

[Attendance Team Planning Tools](#)

Establish a team that operates in isolation

Fail to rally the whole school to support prevention and early intervention

Focus only on students with the most absences

Case management as the sole strategy

Jumping to solutions without sufficient understanding of factors behind absences

Team composition does not reflect the demographics, perspectives or cultural realities of the student population
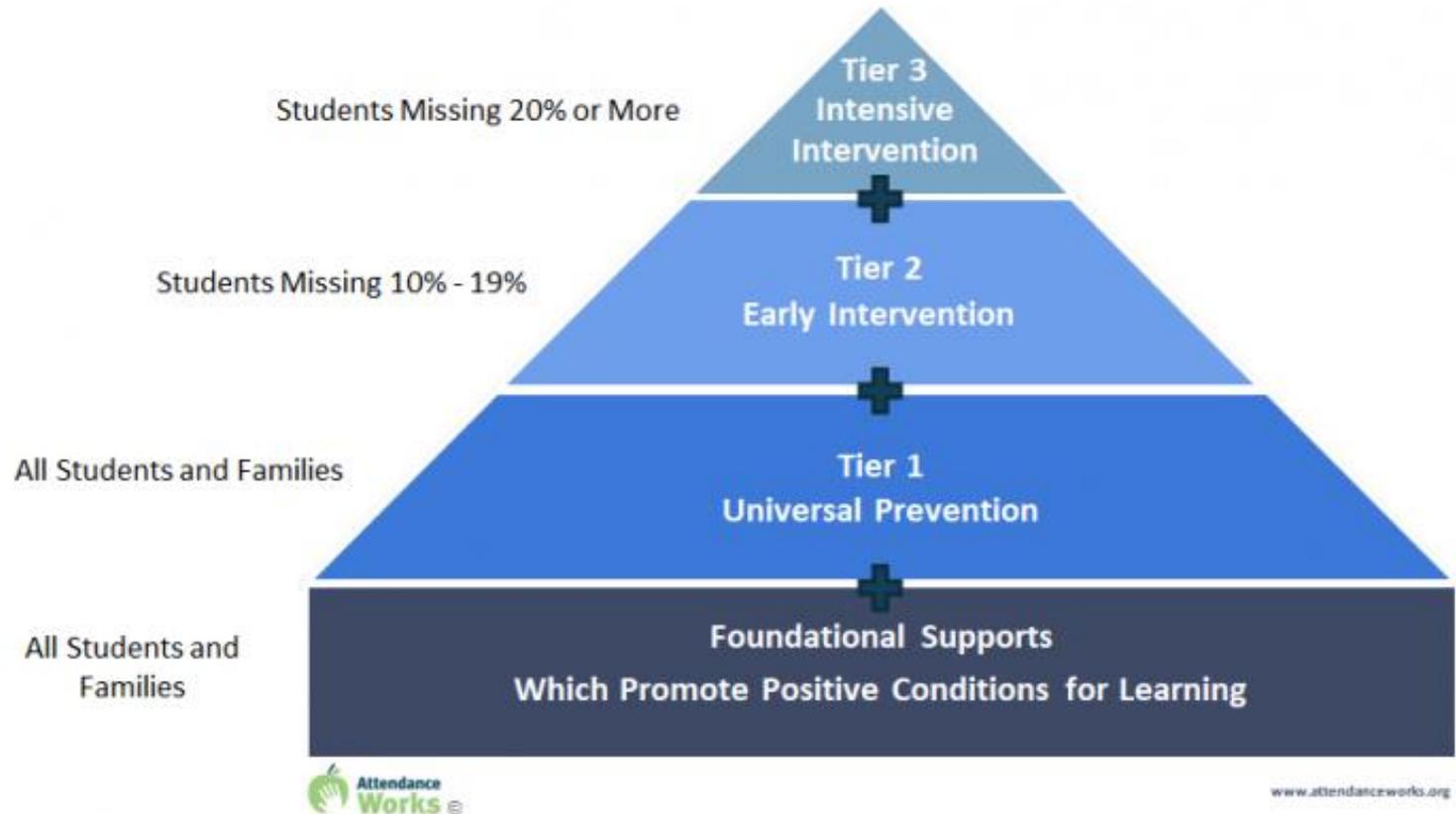
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Want to learn more about Tiered Interventions for Attendance?

Examples of tiered supports

Link to other resources for planning tiered responses for attendance

Source: Attendance Works; https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tiered Supports for Improving Attendance

Source: Attendance Works; https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/

Intentional Close

Thorn to Rose….

Reflect on your Rose, Bud and Thorn reflection, what is one thing you can do this week to turn your Thorn or Bud into a **Rose**?

Self-awareness   Self-management   Responsible Decision Making

Announcements

Next Meeting Date: February 18, 2026

Resources: All Materials and tools will be posted on the ISBE website

Contact Information

Carl Amos: camos@isbe.net

Nanette Coley: ncoley@isbe.net

Sarah Littrell: SLITTREL@isbe.net

Theresa Olsen: tolsen@isbe.net

Email: everydaycounts@isbe.net
ISBE Chronic Absenteeism Website

SEL as a Strategy - Resources

- Social-Emotional Learning Hubs
  - Provide professional development, training, coaching and capacity building to schools, districts and ROEs to example SEL and trauma-responsive programming.
  - Provide coaching supports for RSSI
- Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois (RSSI)
  - Choose your focus: Trauma-Responsiveness, Social & Emotional Learning, Mental Health, Cultural Responsiveness, Anti-Racism & Equity
  - 15 question survey and build your plan with an SEL coach
- Learning and Resource Hub
  - FREE educational resource in support of strategies pertaining to social and emotional learning, trauma-responsive practices, mental health, and healing for both staff and students.
  - Approved provider for ISBE professional development.
  - *NEW information and modules added regularly.*

Illinois State Board of Education
Social Emotional Learning Hubs

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

CASEL Resources
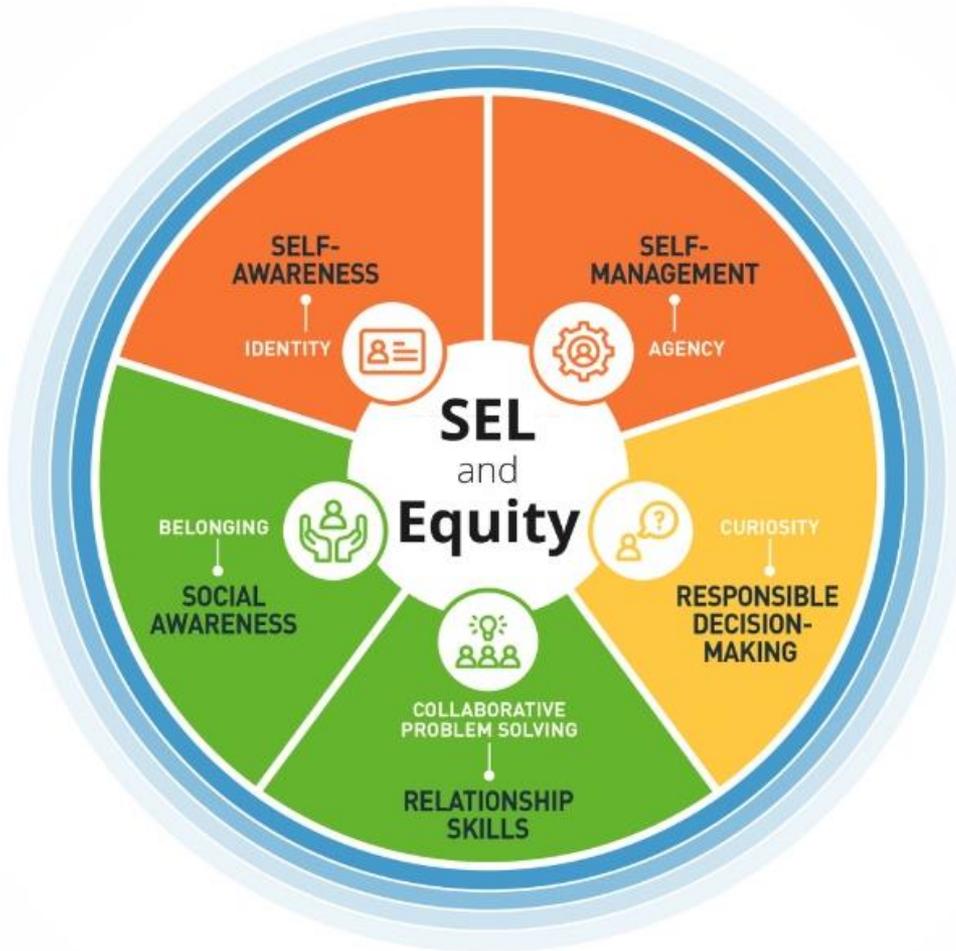
- [CASEL](#) – Collaborative for Social Emotional and Academic Learning
- [5 SEL Competencies](#) & Focal Constructs
- [3 Signature Practices](#)
- [School](#) and [District](#) SEL Implementation
- [How does SEL Support Equity?](#)

One *rose*, or something positive that happened this week, is

One *bud*, or something that I'm looking forward to next week, is

One *thorn*, or something that I need help with, is

One thing I will try next week to *turn my thorn into a rose* is

PANORAMA
EDUCATION

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION