



Stronger Connections Collaborative

October 30, 2025



Welcome – please **SIGN IN** so I can
send resources after the meeting!



Agenda

Inclusive Welcome

Resource Spotlight

Pass the Mic

Technical Assistance / Announcements

Intentional Close





Inclusive Welcome



Two Word Check-in

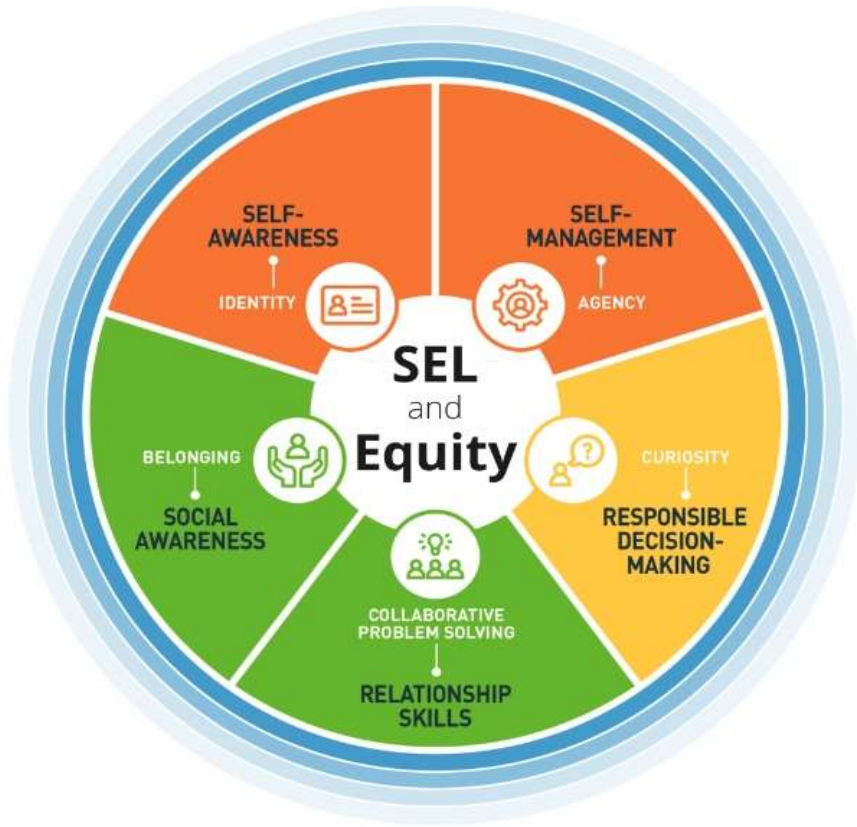
- View the **Mood Meter Graphic**
- **Pause and reflect** to choose 2 words that describe:
 - *how you are feeling at this moment*
- **ONLY 2 words**
- No explanation or judgement
- Unmute and share OR type in the chat

Tap one of the words on the Mood Meter



Reflect - How are you feeling at this moment?

Two Word Check-in – the WHY?



- ✓ **Self-awareness** - identify emotions
- ✓ **Self-management** - manage emotions
- ✓ **Social awareness** - demonstrate empathy
- ✓ **Relationship skills** - communicate effectively
- ✓ **Responsible decision-making** - demonstrate open-mindedness

- [Mood Meter Graphic for 2 word check in](#)
- [Mood Meter - Free Printables](#)



Resource Spotlight

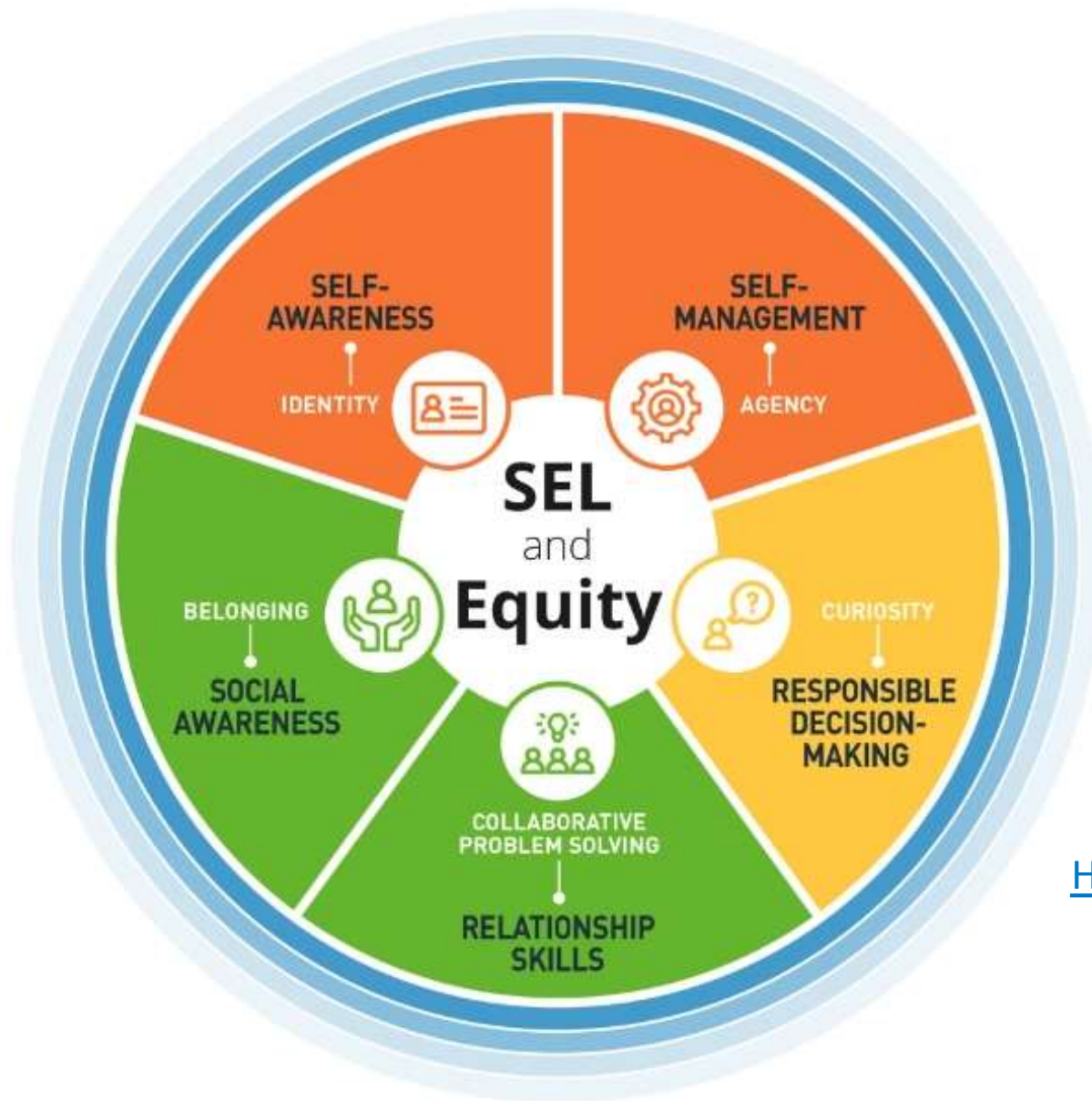
Creating Space for Engagement



- [CASEL](#) – Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
- [5 SEL Competencies](#) & Focal Constructs
- [3 Signature Practices](#)
- [School](#) and [District](#) SEL Implementation



CASEL 5 SEL Competencies and Focal Constructs



[How does SEL Support Equity?](#)



3 Signature Practices

**Inclusive
Welcome**

**Engaging
Strategies**

**Intentional
Close**

*research-based practices that can be
part of a systemic approach to SEL*



3 Signature Practices



Inclusive Welcome

- Build community
- Connect to work ahead

Engaging Strategies

- Connect learning to personal context
- Interactive and reflective

Intentional Close

- Highlight understanding and purpose
- Forward thinking

ISBE and SEL



<https://www.isbe.net/selhubs>



Social Emotional Learning Hubs

- Direct support for social emotional learning and universal mental health screening
- Provide coaching, professional development, training, and capacity building to districts and regional offices in their area
- Assist school-community leadership teams to implement data-driven strategies to address student trauma and mental health needs and build resilient communities

Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois

- **Free** and voluntary support that uses school-specific data to connect educators with evidence-informed tools and resources to improve the mental health and well-being of their school-communities. Choose a focus:
 - Trauma-responsiveness
 - Social and Emotional Learning
 - Mental Health
 - Cultural Responsiveness



Additional Supports

- [Learning and Resource Hub](#) - **Free** educational resource in support of strategies pertaining to the four RSSI pillars and professional development
 - [Learning Playlists](#) - Structured courses about a specific topic that meet your level of readiness.
- [Children's Adversity Index](#)
- [BEACON](#) - **Free** resource to help families find the behavioral and mental health services they need, where they need them including telehealth services. [Flyer](#)
- [SPIDER](#) - **Free** database that connects service providers, individuals, families, and communities to social service resources
- [Universal Mental Health Screening Webpage](#)
 - [Informational Slides](#)



Pass the Mic

Gurnee SD 56 & Referral GPS

Disclaimer

Activity examples shared by Stronger Connections grantees are for general information. Each Stronger Connections grantee remains responsible for ensuring its activities comply with federal and state requirements and its grant agreement and is reminded that allowability is determined on a case-by-case basis through established ISBE processes. ISBE will not make activity-specific allowability or compliance determinations in this forum.

Share Your Success



SHARE - Stronger Connections Success!

Click [HERE](#) to access the form and sign up today!



Technical Assistance / Updates

SCG Year 2 (FY26) Reporting

[Quarterly Metric Reports – Year 2](#) **New link!**

FY 2025 Stronger Connections Grant - Year 2 (FY26) - Quarterly Metric Reports

This form is collecting information for FY 2026 (Year 2 of the FY 2025 grant activity)

Submission of this report quarterly is a requirement of grant.

- Quarter 1 – July through September; **Due Oct. 20, 2025**
- Quarter 2 – October through December; **Due Jan. 20, 2026**
- Quarter 3 – January through March; **Due April 20, 2026**
- Quarter 4 – April through June; **Due July 20, 2026**

Still accepting reports from FY25 school year – please submit as soon as possible!

Grantee Manual – Updates for Year 2 (FY26)



New document coming soon!

Updated reporting requirements

New quarterly metric form link

Grant timeline details

Reporting guidance and expectations

SCG Updates

Stronger Connections Grant

- Area 1
67 Schools
- Area 2
15 Schools
- Area 3
14 Schools
- Area 4
14 Schools
- Area 5
18 Schools
- Area 6
31 Schools
- Area 7
Chicago Public Schools



- New map graphic
- Funds are being used throughout the state
- Possible networking opportunities

Dates to Remember...



Quarter 1 Metric Report – was **due Oct. 20, 2025**



Next Stronger Connections Collaborative Meeting
– **Dec. 4, 2025**



Questions?



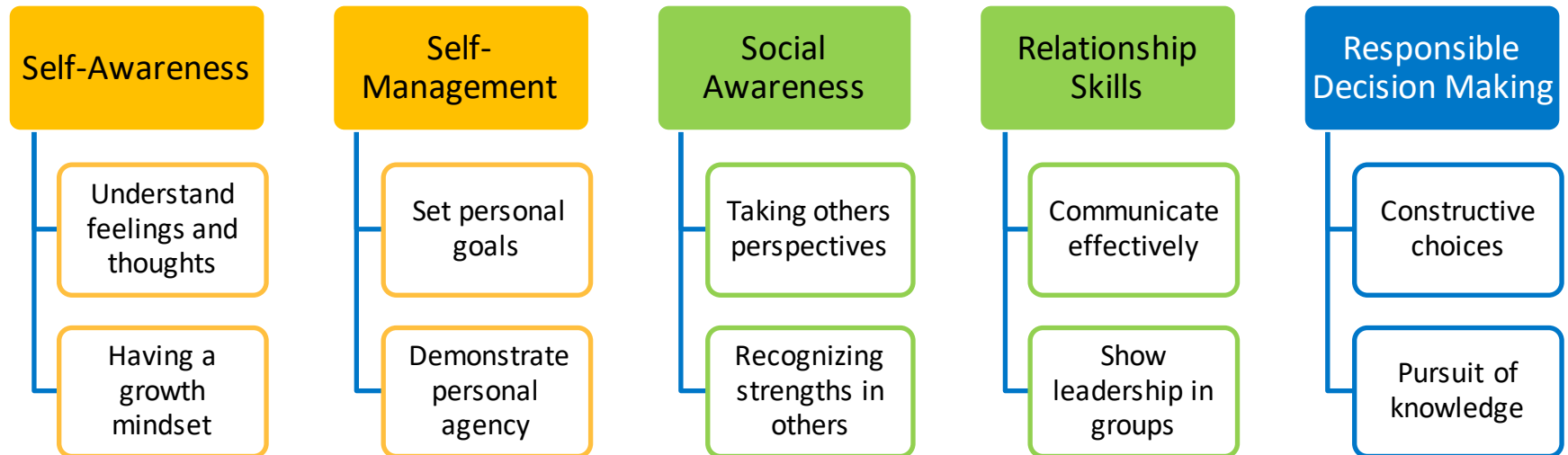
Intentional Close



I am Curious...

- Reflect on today's session
- Complete the sentence:
 - I am curious about...
 - I am curious to learn more about...
- WRITE on a sticky note
- SHARE in the chat, unmute and share with the whole group

How does “I am curious” support SEL?



Stronger Connections Contacts



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Thank you