

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Creating a Roadmap for Social-Emotional Learning



The Challenge

In recent years, Everett Public Schools has made impressive strides in serving its more than 20,000 students. The district has been recognized as a regional leader for raising graduation rates and promoting innovative STEM partnerships with community partners and higher education institutions.

However, the district's leadership under Superintendent Gary Cohn also identified a critical need to support students' social-emotional well-being within their system. Everett had invested heavily in promoting students' success through attendance coaches and mental health services, yet knew its supports for SEL were still developing.

Taking a Coordinated Approach to SEL

Today, Everett Public Schools has committed itself to deepening its support for the whole child through curriculum and SEL measurement. In a recent webinar, "[Creating an SEL Roadmap](#)," director of research and assessment Catherine Matthews and director of student support services Becky Ballbach shared the progress the district has made in growing its SEL resources and support for students.

Everett Public Schools began its journey by adopting updates to its board-approved strategic plan, which explicitly highlight social-emotional well-being and college, career, and life readiness. The district's vision and strategic plan call for students who will acquire the knowledge and attitudes to thrive in a global world—both of which are now reflected in the system's guiding document.

Keys to Success

1. Create a new vision for supporting social-emotional learning

To bring SEL to life for students, district leaders sought to build upon the years of groundwork they had already developed. By shifting the focus from supporting "all students" to "each student," the district emphasized the value of individual needs and relationships.



Location

Everett, Washington, located 20 miles north of Seattle

About the District

Everett Public Schools serves 20,000 students across 27 schools. Students speak over 60 languages at home and its 4 traditional high schools have among the highest graduation rates in the state

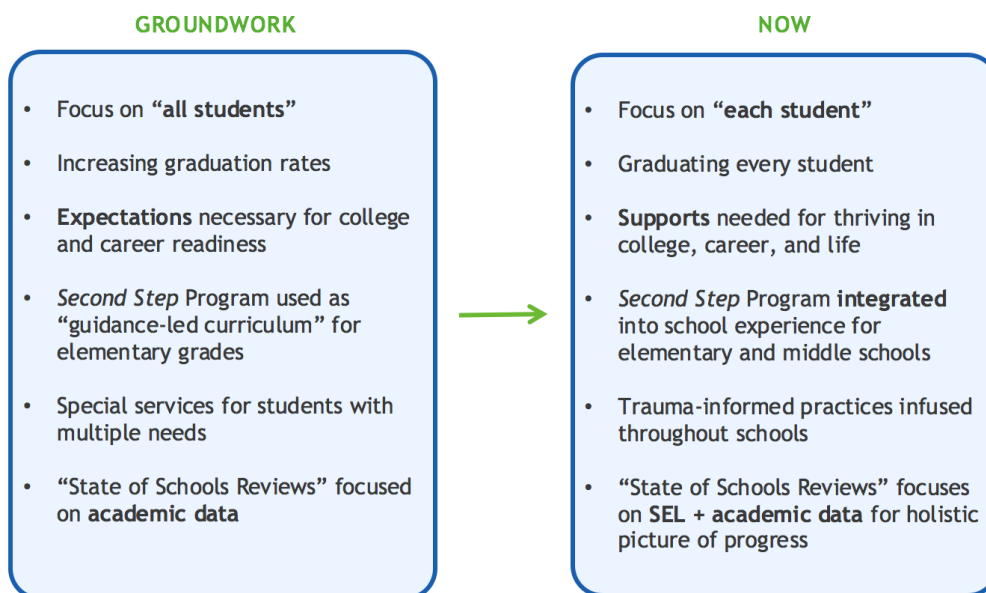
Panorama Products



Social-Emotional Learning



Data Analytics

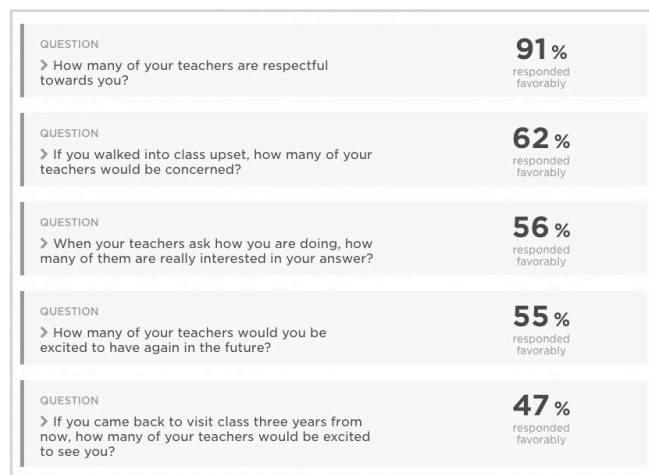


2. Identify the specific skills and mindsets to promote

Everett’s leaders selected seven SEL topics to focus on: Grit, Growth Mindset, Teacher-Student Relationships, School Safety, Self-Management, Sense of Belonging, and Social Awareness. These topics were chosen from Panorama’s social-emotional learning survey as measures of key factors that enable students to succeed both in school and out of school. Many of these topics also [align with](#) components of the *Second Step Program*, which the district has used at the elementary level to teach SEL skills, such as growth mindset and social awareness.

3. Use data to monitor progress as a district, a school, and for each student

The district used Panorama’s surveys to understand students’ perceptions of their own social-emotional learning skills and overall well-being. Educators in 7 schools received access to data reports that showed overall results, results disaggregated by student subgroups, comparisons to the district and national benchmarks, and resources to guide improvement using Panorama’s Playbook.



4. Iterate and scale up success district-wide

As the district continues to measure students’ social-emotional learning, director of student support services Becky Ballbach has led an expansion of the *Second Step Program* to include classroom teachers and middle school grade levels. For Ballbach, the goal is to make SEL instruction core to the district’s teaching and learning efforts—while developing a robust, multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) that includes both SEL instruction and measurement.

Everett Public Schools is in the process of developing their own MTSS based on the successes of other districts. By infusing SEL data into this tiered model, the district hopes to provide educators with

better progress monitoring indicators for all students (Tier 1), and to allow for better targeting of interventions (Tier 2), and ultimately more intensive supports and counseling services for those students most in need (Tier 3).

This year, every school in Everett Public Schools has opted-in to use the Panorama SEL survey. Principals and school staff will use SEL data reports (as shown to the right) to understand the different experiences of students and to set goals for their “State of the School” improvement plans.

Subgroup Name	Grit	Growth Mindset	School Safety	Self-Management	Sense of Belonging	Social Awareness	Teacher-Student Relationships
All respondents	55%	56%	54%	71%	37%	64%	50%
What is your gender?							
Female	-1	-1	0	+3	-3	+3	-1
Male	+1	+2	+1	-3	+3	-2	0
What is your grade level?							
6th	+3	+2	+5	+6	+10	+7	+11
7th	0	-1	-2	+2	+1	-1	+1
8th	+2	+3	+7	+2	+5	+5	+9
9th	-3	-1	-6	-5	-6	-5	-12
10th	-3	-1	+1	-2	-6	-1	-6
11th	-1	+1	+7	-2	0	-1	-1
12th	+2	0	-4	-4	0	-1	-1

Looking ahead

Everett Public Schools has made impressive strides along its journey to better support students’ social-emotional learning and well-being. In the years ahead, the district will continue to rely on its coordinated approach to pair curricular programs—like *Second Step*—with SEL measurements from Panorama.

By working collaboratively and setting a clear vision, the district is well on its way to supporting *each student’s* path toward life readiness in Everett.

About Panorama

Panorama Education partners with schools, districts, charter networks, and state departments of education to collect and analyze data about social-emotional learning, school climate, family engagement, and more. With research-backed surveys and a leading technology platform, Panorama helps educators act on data to improve student outcomes. Panorama has supported more than 15 million students in 21,000 schools across all 50 states, including those in the New York City Department of Education, Dallas Independent School District, Seattle Public Schools, and San Francisco Unified School District.



Get in touch

contact@panoramaed.com
 24 School Street, Fl 4
 Boston, MA 02108