



# GSN SEL Research Findings

February 2020

Student success  
measures  
correlated with  
Social Emotional  
Learning (SEL)  
include:

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:** Average achievement scores are 11% higher compared to students who did not receive formal SEL instruction

**ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS:** Student are reported to have increased motivation, deeper commitment to school, higher engagement, and improved classroom behavior

**FEWER NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS:** Decreases in reported disruptions, noncompliant behaviors, aggression, delinquent acts, and disciplinary referrals have been reported

**REDUCED EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:** Fewer reports of student depression, anxiety, stress, and social withdrawal were filed

# The University of Northern Colorado Collaboration

Across the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years, researchers from The University of Northern Colorado examined data from multiple administrations of two SEL survey instruments, Aperture Ed's mini-DESSA (grades K-6) and The Indigo Project's Indigo Survey (grades 7-12)

The goal was to investigate potential impact of implementing the GSN Advocacy program in schools across 15 Colorado districts.



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# Findings from a 3rd party evaluation of the GSN Advocacy program

DESSA data demonstrated that **primary students** made significant **gains in relationship skills, social awareness & responsible decision making**, between the first and second administration of the DESSA survey.

Teachers scoring patterns over time suggest an **growing understanding of their students' social emotional competency levels**.

# Findings from a 3rd party evaluation of the GSN Advocacy program

Indigo data revealed that **secondary students** who scored in the lowest SEL quartile at the beginning of the Advocacy **program achieved the most significant social emotional growth** by the end of the year.

The majority of these **students moved up to a higher scoring quartile** by the end of the year.

Most notable was the **positive correlation found between student SEL scores and self-reported GPA**, indicating that social emotional health can have a significant impact on student academic success.

# Findings from a 3rd party evaluation of the GSN Advocacy program

Overall, findings indicate that **participating students gain Social Emotional skills** when attending a school where the GSN Advocacy Program is employed.

Growth was also identified in specific leading indicators shown to **improve long-term student outcomes** including school engagement and adult-student connectedness.

To access the full report, click [HERE](#).