

# Social Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment (SEL PQA©)

## What is the SEL PQA?

The SEL PQA is a program observation instrument that focuses on intentional staff practices and behaviors that support social and emotional learning for school-age children, in addition to staff's approach to designing program structures, activities, and routines. It sets a high bar for quality that fosters social emotional skill development and growth over time. SEL PQA focuses on observable practices in programs where school-age children interact with each other, adults, and their environments in the following domains:

- Safe spaces that create positive emotional climates
- Supportive environments where staff support school-age children through encouragement and opportunities for managing emotions
- Interactive environments where staff foster teamwork, responsibility, and leadership among school-age children
- Engaging environments that provide opportunities for school-age children to experience belonging

## Which program(s) could use the SEL PQA?

SEL PQA can be used in center or school-based settings including full day out of school time and before and after school sites serving children in grades K-12.

## SEL PQA assessment process

External SEL PQA assessments are conducted by a reliable SEL PQA assessor from the Program Quality Assessment (PQA) team. Assessment times can range from one to three hours.

Internal SEL PQA assessments are conducted by the program's internal assessment (IA) team. The program's IA team partners with the Quality Coach and SEL PQA Assessor when planning for and conducting internal assessment and when analyzing the information collected during the internal assessment process. A team leader observes and takes notes, including anecdotal records, to gather classroom data. The internal assessment process includes at least one hour of classroom observation. Please see "How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using the SEL PQA" for detailed information on using SEL PQA for internal assessment.

## How the SEL PQA supports continuous quality improvement (CQI)?

Information gathered during a SEL PQA assessment can be used by the program to help identify strong classroom practices and structures that are in place to support the social and emotional learning of school-age children, as well as to identify potential areas for growth. The information gathered can also be used to identify staff professional development needs and help create the program's continuous quality improvement plan.

## Additional Information/Training

- [The Forum for Youth Investment \(forumfyi.org\)](https://forumfyi.org)  
SEL PQA form can be downloaded free of charge.
- [How to Conduct an Internal Assessment Using SEL PQA \(pakeys.org/how-to-selpqa\)](https://pakeys.org/how-to-selpqa)
- [Facilitated Program Observation Instrument Orientation Request \(FPO\) \(pakeys.org\)](https://pakeys.org)
- [Program Quality Assessment Professional Development \(pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development\)](https://pakeys.org/pqa/professional-development)