

SEL Instruction Linked to Student Gains in APS



SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL
LEARNING

A 2025 independent study of the Atlanta Public Schools SEL program shows students in high-SEL implementing schools are **over 1.6 times** more likely to achieve in school, than in low-SEL implementing schools.

The following data is based on Second Step lesson completion rates for the 2023-24 school year



Attendance

32% fewer chronic absences

Students in schools with higher lesson completion rates have better attendance-25% of students are chronically absent in APS schools with over 75% completion, compared to 33% in schools with under 75% lesson completion.

Academic Proficiency

1.6x higher MAP and GMAS proficiency

Academic performance is higher (45%) in schools with over 75% lesson completion, compared to just 28% in schools with under 75% completion.



Behavior

18% fewer disciplinary incidents

Students receive fewer behavior referrals (14%) at schools with higher lesson completion rates (>75%), as compared to 17% at schools with lower completion rates (<75%)

Independent study by Hanover Research supports expanding explicit SEL instruction to enhance student outcomes in Atlanta Public Schools.