



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**18-4933

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**Agenda Item Number:** 6.

**Agenda Date:** 9/4/2018

**In Control:** Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors

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**DEPARTMENT:** Pre-K 4 SA

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Sarah Baray, Ph.D.

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Social and Emotional Learning Model

**SUMMARY:**

This item includes a briefing of the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) model developed by the Pre-K 4 SA program through research, staff feedback, and best practices.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Pre-K 4 SA aims to promote social and emotional learning in all our students by utilizing evidence-based practices in the direct support of children, in consultation with parents and teachers, and in professional development.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is the world's leading organization for social emotional learning. CASEL identifies five core SEL competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making. Pre-K 4 SA utilizes CASEL's *Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs: Preschool and Elementary Edition* (2013) as an implementation guide.

Pre-K 4 SA follows the HighScope Preschool Curriculum, which integrates SEL with academics through

teacher instructional practices. CASEL concludes that the HighScope approach provides extensive opportunities for children to practice social-emotional skills and has been demonstrated to increase academic performance, increase positive social behavior, reduce conduct problems, and reduce emotional distress.

**ISSUE:**

This item will include a briefing on the systematic and research-based Social and Emotional Learning framework Pre-K 4 SA began implementing during the 2017-18 school year and will continue to implement for the 2018-19 school year. This will also include a description of the restructure of the Social and Emotional Learning team.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is a briefing for informational purposes only.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Social and Emotional Learning model is no additional cost to the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is a briefing for informational purposes only.