



## The Opportunity

We are experiencing a unique moment in education. Advances in research in human development, neuroscience, and education have demonstrated that social and emotional development is central to learning. Students who have a sense of belonging and purpose, who can work well with peers to solve problems, who can plan and set goals, and who can persevere through challenges, are more likely to maximize their opportunities to learn and reach their full potential. At the same time, a growing chorus of families, educators, and employers are calling for a new vision of education that addresses the whole student. And a shifting policy landscape is opening the door to a comprehensive approach to learning and development. Now is the time to move beyond debate as to *whether* schools should address students' social and emotional learning to focus, instead, on *how* schools can effectively integrate social, emotional, and academic development into their daily work with students.

## Purpose

The National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development is engaging and energizing communities to fully integrate the social, emotional, and academic dimensions of learning in K-12 education so that all students are prepared to thrive in school, career, and life. The Commission is not doing this work alone. It is listening to educators, families, local leaders, community organizations, employers, and partners to learn lessons that will help it:

1. Establish a clear and shared understanding of what social, emotional, and academic development in K-12 education means and looks like, as well as why it is important.
2. Set the foundation for a community-driven movement that acknowledges the central role of local communities in this work and galvanizes support among educators, families, out-of-school providers, and others.
3. Develop a comprehensive change agenda with recommendations in research, practice, and policy that provide clear and compelling guidance on how to integrate social, emotional, and academic development in K-12 education.

A culminating *Report From the Nation* will draw from the input we receive to present a change agenda that recommends specific action steps for building and sustaining a new era of education that supports the full development of our students.

## Who We Are

The Commission is led by co-chairs Linda Darling Hammond, president and CEO of the Learning Policy Institute and Charles E. Ducommun Professor Emeritus at Stanford University; Governor John Engler, immediate past president of the Business Roundtable and former Governor of Michigan; and Tim Shriver, co-founder and chair of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and chairman of the Special Olympics. The Commission's 25 members include two sitting governors, two leading school superintendents, and represent wide-ranging experiences and viewpoints from multiple fields, including education, research, business, policy, and the military.

In a deliberate effort to hear directly from those engaged in and affected by this work and to facilitate the intersection of research, practice, and policy, the full Commission team includes the following entities:

- A [Council of Distinguished Scientists](#) is illuminating relevant evidence from multiple fields and identifying areas for further study.
- A [Council of Distinguished Educators](#) is identifying challenges and opportunities for taking efforts to scale.
- The [Aspen Institute Youth Commission](#) is contributing firsthand experience and real-time insights to the conversation.
- A [Parent Advisory Panel](#) is providing a crucial perspective on how schools can complement families' and communities' efforts to comprehensively support youth.
- A [Partners Collaborative](#) is offering advice on direction and feasibility and is engaging their networks and stakeholders in advancing this approach.
- A [Funders Collaborative](#) is ensuring the Commission's activities are informed by the many philanthropic efforts dedicated to deepening and accelerating this work.

The Commission is housed at the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan forum for values-based leadership and the exchange of ideas that leads to meaningful action.

## Join Us

Help us advance a new vision of education success that supports the social, emotional, and academic development of all students. Visit [www.AspenSEAD.org](http://www.AspenSEAD.org) and follow us @AspenSEAD to learn more, sign up for Commission updates, and discover ways to engage.

