

# Student Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Outcomes

Evaluation conducted by Child Trends



READING  
PARTNERS

## Social-Emotional Learning Helps Children:



Acquire and effectively apply the skills necessary to understand and manage emotions



Set and achieve positive goals



Feel and show empathy for others



Establish and maintain positive relationships



Make responsible decisions

## Evaluation Overview

An independent, two-year study conducted by Child Trends in California from 2016 to 2018 affirms the promise of Reading Partners' program.

Child TRENDS

Students' SEL skills were assessed through surveys of their classroom teachers completed when students enrolled in Reading Partners' program (pre-test) and again at the end of the school year (post-test). In each of these surveys, teachers reported on five key SEL skills:

### Social Competence

A student's ability to understand and take peers' perspectives, work well with peers, positively resolve problems, and behave appropriately according to social norms.

### Persistence

A student's ability to continue working toward a goal in spite of obstacles, discouragement, or difficulties.

### Self-Control

A student's ability to control emotions and behavior, sustain attention or focus on a given task, and wait his or her turn or for what he or she wants.

### Reading Engagement

A student's level of participation, attention, interest, curiosity, and motivation specifically in reading activities.

### School Engagement

A student's level of participation, attention, interest, curiosity, and motivation in school activities broadly.

# 83%

of students improved their social-emotional learning skills\* by the end of the school year.



\* Significant gains made in four out of five SEL skill areas (shaded above).

## READING ENGAGEMENT



The study suggests that Reading Partners students experienced the largest gains in reading engagement, followed by persistence.

## POSITIVE, WARM RELATIONSHIPS



Warm and positive student-tutor relationships were favorably associated with students' development of persistence and school engagement.

SEL domain sources:  
CASEL. (2016). What is SEL? A Systemic Framework [Website]. Retrieved from <http://www.casel.org/what-is-sel/>.  
Tauck Family Foundation. (2014). Measuring Elementary School Students' Social and Emotional Skills. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends.  
In S. Abbott (Ed.), The glossary of education reform. Retrieved from <http://edglossary.org/hidden-curriculum>.

Study findings about student SEL skills are promising but based on a small sample of students and reflect teacher perceptions, rather than those of students themselves. While the study demonstrates Reading Partners' interest and investment in SEL, the results should be considered exploratory in nature.