



## **Social Skills**

**1 Semester Credits/Units**

Instructor – Ryan Pickett

### **Course Overview**

Most educators experience social and emotional learning (SEL) through isolated programs that are separate from academics. Learn to be more effective and efficient in teaching such skills by embedding it into the daily academic curriculum. Explore one of the most important steps educators must take in this regard: helping students learn to build and maintain relationships through communication, empathy, and teamwork.

Welcome to **Social Skills**. This class was created as part of a five course series entitled **SEL: The Real Essential Skills**. These courses can be taken in isolation and/or in any order. There are no prerequisites. The other four courses in the series are:

- **Identity and Agency**
- **Emotional Regulation**
- **Cognitive Regulation**
- **Public Spirit**

All five courses in the SEL: The Real Essential Skills series require one book entitled [All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning: Helping Students Develop Essential Skills for the Classroom and Beyond](#) by Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher, and Dominique Smith. This book is available for purchase at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

### **Course Objectives**

After completing the course Social Skills, you will demonstrate or indicate:

- The definition of social skills.
- The importance of social skills.
- How to improve your student's prosocial skills such as sharing and teamwork.
- How to create lessons that improve student communication skills.
- How to create curriculum that improves the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Demonstrate an improved ability to teach social skills in the classroom.

### **Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards**

This course aligns to the following professional teaching standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/index.asp>

- Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning
- Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Planning Instruction and Designing learning Experiences for all Students

## How to Submit Coursework

After reading chapters 1, 5, and 7 in the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, complete all of your assignments. Place each assignment 1-5 on a separate page in a single Word Processing file, clearly labeling each assignment by number and name. Submit the single document containing all 5 assignments to the *Independent Learning*, Submit Assignment Section. Some assignments may require supplemental documents. Attach these documents clearly labeled with your name and assignment number. If your assignments are too large for the assignment section or you create them in a format that cannot be attached (i.e. Google Docs), feel free to e-mail or share the documents directly with your instructor. Either way, be sure to email your instructor when you turn in any work.

## Course Assignments

### 1. Conversations with Colleagues

- a. After reading chapter 5 of the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, write a script of a conversation with one or more colleagues in which you help them define social skills with respect to social and emotional learning and why it is so important to help our students build capacity in this area.
- b. Write a script of a follow-up conversation with the same colleagues that reflects on your current practices with respect to building social skills within your students. Be sure to include your strengths as well as where you need to improve within your conversation.

### 2. Pro Social Skills

After reading chapter 5 of the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, create a plan for how you will improve pro social skills such as sharing and teamwork in your students. Describe your plan and explain your reasoning for each decision that you made. Be sure to include any forms or documents that you created in order to implement your plan in the future.

### 3. Lesson Plans

- a. Attach an existing lesson that you have taught your students that you feel has the potential to improve student communication skills. Explain why you chose this lesson.
- b. Utilizing the information that you learned in the book, All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, alter and reattach this lesson improving upon its ability to help students with their communication skills. Explain the changes that you made.

### 4. Integration

What opportunities do you see in your course content to improve your students' ability to build and maintain relationships. Explain where and how you might accomplish it.

### 5. Building Cognitive Regulation

Pretend that you won teacher of the year due to your ability to teach social skills to your students. Because of this honor, you were asked to write an article for Education Weekly about teaching social skills in school. Write this article. While doing so, be sure to address Prosocial Skills, Building and Maintaining Relationships, Communication, and Empathy.

## Course Assessment Rubric

<b>Exemplary:</b> A+ to A-	<b>Acceptable:</b> B+ to B-	<b>Unacceptable</b> Must be resubmitted
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized	Generally well organized	Shows little or no organization
Responses relate numerous facts and specific details of the program materials	Some facts and specific details of the program materials are included	Few or no facts or specific details of the program materials are included
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read