Whole Child Policy
Transforming Learning Environments
Transforming State Education Policy Through a Whole Child Approach

WEBINAR | OCTOBER 26, 2022

Whole Child Policy: Putting the Science of Learning and Development Into Practice

Co-Sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association; Science of Learning & Development (SoLD) Alliance; and the Learning Policy Institute

Whole Child Policy: Setting a Whole Child Vision

Co-Sponsored by AASA, The School Superintendents Association; National Association of State Boards of Education; Science of Learning & Development Alliance; and the Learning Policy Institute
This toolkit is designed to give state policymakers and education leaders the strategies, tools, and resources to advance whole child policy and systems change. A whole child education prioritizes the full scope of a child’s developmental needs—social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and psychological, as well as academic—to ensure that all children are able to reach their full potential. A whole child approach is built on the understanding that students’ education and life outcomes depend on their access to positive relationships inside and outside of school, a safe learning environment, and deeper learning opportunities.

The whole child approach builds on decades of research from the science of learning and development that defines the environments and experiences that children need to thrive. It also draws on the policy agenda set by the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, which brought together leaders from education, policy, research, business, and the military to make recommendations on how to ensure that students’ social, emotional, and cognitive development is centered in schools.

Shifting toward a whole child education has far-reaching implications for our education system, requiring greater investment in evidence-based strategies that support the whole child. This toolkit provides guidance on how to implement whole child policies and systems, including setting a whole child vision, transforming learning environments, redesigning curriculum, instruction, assessments, and accountability systems, building adult capacity, and investing resources equitably and efficiently.
Transforming Learning Environments

Actions states can take:

▷ Support relationship-centered learning environments
▷ Foster safe and inclusive learning environments
▷ Adopt restorative approaches to discipline
▷ Establish integrated support systems
▷ Provide high-quality expanded learning time opportunities
Speaker

Pamela Cantor
Founder and Senior Science Advisor, Turnaround for Children

@drpamelacanto
@Turnaroundr
I am Pam and I don't have a voice today.
I am Pam and I don’t have a voice today.
STRESS
Trust is the antidote to stress.
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JEMISON
There are 20,000 genes in the human genome — fewer than 10% get expressed.
CONTEXT

Experiences

Environment

Relationships
Genes are chemical followers.
Context drives our biology and the expression of our genes.
THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

turnaroundusa.org/Pamela-Cantor
The brain is a dynamic living structure
3 THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

1 2 3
Adversity doesn’t just happen to children, it happens inside their brains and bodies.
CURIOSITY
DOPAMINE
DOPAMINE PATHWAYS

MESOLIMBOCORTICAL PATHWAY

MESOSTRIATAL PATHWAY
TRAUMA IS NOT DESTINY
Essential Guiding Principles for Equitable Whole-Child Design

Sources:

designprinciples.org
Essential Guiding Principles for Equitable Whole-Child Design

Healthy Development, Learning, and Thriving

- Development of Skills, Habits, and Mindsets
- Rich Learning Experiences and Knowledge Development
- Environments Filled With Safety and Belonging
- Integrated Support Systems
- Positive Developmental Relationships

Transformative
Culturally Affirming
Empowering
Personalized

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- Culturally Affirming
- Transformative
- Positive Developmental Relationships
- Integrated Support Systems
- Empowering
- Personalized

Sources: designprinciples.org
Design Principles for Schools
Putting the Science of Learning and Development Into Action

Design Principles for Community-Based Settings
Putting the Science of Learning and Development Into Action
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JEMISON
UNLEASH THE POTENTIAL IN EACH AND EVERY YOUNG PERSON

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@DrPamelaCantor #WholeChild
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Federal Policy and Whole Child Education

Lakeisha Steele
Vice President of Policy
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
The Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Act

Congress reauthorized ESEA in 2015

States can leverage ESEA to address systemic inequity and focus on whole child education by doing the following:

- Including measures of school climate and SEL supports in state accountability systems.
- Replacing exclusionary discipline practices with SEL supports and restorative justice practices.
- Advancing whole child education as a school improvement strategy.
- Using Title IV-A funding to ensure equitable access to whole child supports.
American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

- Delivered a historic investment of $122 billion in K-12 education funding.

- States and districts are required to spend 5 percent and 20 percent of funds to address unfinished learning and support students’ social and emotional well-being.

- State and district spending plans.

- States are using ARP funds to support students academic, and social and emotional learning.
Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)

- Signed into law on June 25, 2022.
- Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Evidence-Based Practices.
- Over $2 billion for school safety and student mental health.
- Creates new prohibition on using ESEA funds on dangerous weapons.
BSCA Education Provisions: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

● $1B for Title IV-A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program:
  ○ Funds awarded to States (SEAs) using the Title IV-A formula.
  ○ SEAs award competitive grants to high-need LEAs, as determined by the state.
  ○ Funds can be used in three broad buckets:
    ■ well-rounded education
    ■ safe and healthy students
    ■ effective use of technology.
BSCA Education Provisions: SEL (cont.)

- $50M for 21st Century Community Learning Centers:
  - Formula grants to SEAs, which award to local entities (LEAs, community-based organizations).
  - Use of funds

- $1B Split Between Two Mental Health Programs:
  - School-Based Mental Health Services Grant program
  - Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grants Program.

- Guidance from ED contains strong encouragement to use funds on SEL
FY23 Omnibus: SEL and Whole Child Approaches

- Provides $3.4 billion for the bipartisan SEL and Whole Child K-12 Education Initiative, including:
  - $284 million for Education Innovation and Research grant program.
  - $90 million for the Supporting Effective Educator Development program.
  - $91 million for the Promise Neighborhoods grant program.
  - $216 million for School Safety National Activities
  - $150 million for Full-Service Community Schools
- Funding for four specific community projects on SEL or whole child approaches.
- The bill also provides $18.4 billion for Title I-A grants and $1.4 billion for Title IV-A.
Moderated Conversation

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Thank You!

Please join us for the upcoming webinars in the *Transforming State Education Policy Through a Whole Child Approach* series

- March 1 | Building Adult Capacity and Expertise
- April 12 | Investing Resources Equitably and Efficiently
- May 24 | Redesigning Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Accountability