

During the 2021 legislative session, the Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5030, which was the result of a multi-year effort by the Washington School Counselor Association (WSCA) and other statewide advocates to clarify the role of the school counselor in alignment with current best practices. SSB 5030 requires districts to develop and implement a comprehensive school counseling program (CSCP) for all schools within the district that addresses students' social/emotional, academic, and career development in alignment with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model.

The best way to structure the program is to focus on three essential components - academic, career, and social emotional development. RCW 28A.410.040

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is broadly understood as a process through which individuals build awareness and skills in managing emotions, setting goals, establishing relationships, and making responsible decisions that support success in school and in life. When we think of educating the whole child, their social and emotional development must be considered as a part of overall instruction.

The WA SEL standards and benchmarks were developed through the lens of four guiding principles: equity, cultural responsiveness, universal design, and trauma-informed practices, and reflect input received from statewide stakeholders through focus groups, community forums, and an online survey. Governor Inslee adopted the Washington State SEL standards and benchmarks in January of 2020.

Below is a list of the standards and benchmarks of both the ASCA and Washington State.

While teachers should be teaching these mindsets and behaviors in their rooms, the counselor will push into the classrooms for presentations throughout the year. Below is a list of the topics to be discussed by grade band and what month they are scheduled (subject to change).