



# 20 SEL Conversations

At busy PSEL school sites, school-day and OST staff need to make the time to really dig into SEL together. Use these 20 conversation ideas and resources to make the most of those precious opportunities. Each conversation identifies possible roles to lead, but consider what would work best for your school site.

<p><b>1. Cross-Talk on Positive Discipline</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Principal and School Counselor</p> <p>Invite both school-day and OST staff to read a professional development <a href="#">article or chapter on positive discipline</a>.</p> <p>At the next Site SEL Team meeting, share your reactions to the article.</p> <p>Pair up school-day and OST staff members to discuss how a strategy from the article could be aligned across each of your spaces.</p>	<p><b>2. Tally Equity Practices</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Assistant Principal and SEL Lead</p> <p>Check out the <a href="#">Equitable Classroom Practices Observation Checklist</a>.</p> <p>How many of the 27 equitable classroom practices in this tool are currently being implemented during the school day? In OST?</p> <p>School-day staff: Do any of the practices represent “simply good teaching”?</p> <p>OST staff: Would you need to adapt any of the practices for OST?</p>	<p><b>3. Take ‘Tiny Bites’ of PD</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School Day SEL Specialist/Resource Teacher and OST SEL Specialist</p> <p>During a Site SEL Team meeting, present a <a href="#">short video and fact sheet</a> demonstrating a specific practice that supports student SEL.</p> <p>(Follow the link above, then click on the topic areas at left to access videos and fact sheets.)</p> <p>Is this practice present in OST? What about during the school day? Brainstorm ideas for motivating staff to try something new.</p>	<p><b>4. Team Up to Meet Student Needs</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School-Day and OST Champions</p> <p>During a PLC, grade-level meeting or OST staff meeting, revisit <a href="#">Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs as it applies to students</a>.</p> <p>Consider possible new supports or activities – across school-day and OST –in each of the five tiers. On your campus, which tiers currently best reflect SEL? What work still needs to be done?</p>	<p><b>5. Strengthen Adult SEL</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Any staff member and their role-alikes at other PSEL Phase I sites</p> <p>Schedule a brief “virtual community of practice” conference call with other PSEL sites in Palm Beach County. As part of a welcoming ritual, tell your role-alikes about a time when you used <a href="#">one of these SEL strategies</a> at work.</p>
<p><b>6. Handle Wrong Answers the Right Way</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Grade-Level Chairs</p> <p>Wondering how to respond “with SEL” to students’ incorrect answers without embarrassing, rejecting or discouraging them?</p> <p>At your grade-level meeting, discuss how teachers currently respond to wrong answers. Then <a href="#">read this article</a> together and highlight at least one new idea you can implement tomorrow.</p>	<p><b>7. Feed Their Needs With Positive Adult Language</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School-Day and OST Champions</p> <p>There are at least five ways in which school-day or OST staff can respond to students’ needs for affirmation, contribution, power, purpose, and challenge. These include <a href="#">invitation, opportunity, investment, persistence and reflection</a>.</p> <p>At an Site SEL Team meeting, quote yourself! Create a chart paper for each of the five types of responses. On sticky notes, team members write examples of actual language they’ve used with students from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ask them to sort each sticky note onto the correct chart paper. Type up and share the results with all staff.</p>	<p><b>8. Support Marginalized Students</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Assistant Principal and SEL Lead</p> <p>Together, explore videos on Cultivating a Belonging Mindset, Fostering Positive Relationships, Building Academic Confidence and more.</p> <p><a href="https://www.edutopia.org/how-learning-happens">https://www.edutopia.org/how-learning-happens</a></p> <p>Could your school apply these strategies to promote equity during the school day and OST, helping “improve the learning capacity of diverse students who have been marginalized educationally”?</p>	<p><b>9. Building Bridges Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leader:</i> Assistant Principal and SEL Lead</p> <p>Think about how you will “feed” the school-day/OST staff partnership to help it grow this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can you modify meeting structures and use creative scheduling to allow school-day and OST staff to meet together?</li> <li>• How can you celebrate progress together?</li> <li>• How can you build relationships?</li> </ul> <p>Check out <a href="#">these team-building games</a> to get started.</p>	<p><b>10. Take a Bird’s-Eye View of SEL</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Principal and Assistant Principal</p> <p><a href="https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_take_sel_to_the_next_level_at_your_school">https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_take_sel_to_the_next_level_at_your_school</a></p> <p>At a PLC, talk about what you are already doing to promote SEL in your school. Take an inventory of strategies and practices large and small, across school-day and OST.</p> <p>What could you <i>stop</i> or <i>start</i> doing, and how would it help advance your PSEL Site SEL Plan? What does success look like for adult SEL? For adult practice with youth?</p>

<p><b>11. Foster Students' Growth Mindset</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leader:</i> Family Liaison Chevette Gadson</p> <p>How could <a href="#">this information on Growth Mindset</a> or another SEL topic be shared with families as part of monthly family communication methods that are already in place? Reach out to the PSEL family liaison for help in planning.</p>	<p><b>12. Think Beyond Punishment</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Principal and School Counselor</p> <p>Both school-day and OST staff may ask, "If not punishment and not permissiveness, then what?" The answer is encouragement.</p> <p><a href="#">Discuss this article</a> at your next PLC. What is your school already doing during the school day and OST that aligns with this philosophy?</p>	<p><b>13. Tell Every Student, "You Matter"</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leader:</i> SEL Lead</p> <p>Encourage teachers and OST staff to try this index-card strategy or the "What I See in You" activity, both designed to help students feel seen as individuals.</p> <p><a href="#">Index Card Rosters</a></p> <p><a href="#">What I See in You</a></p>	<p><b>14. Capture What Works</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School-Day and OST Champions</p> <p>Working together, poll colleagues to identify successful example of SEL strategies they have integrated into academic instruction or OST activities. Compile and share the results at the next SEL Site Team meeting and at the next cross-site community of practice.</p> <p>Next Step: Think about how staff can use the Swivl video "robot" for recording successful SEL in action!</p>	<p><b>15. Resolve Conflict Creatively</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School Day SEL Specialist/Resource Teacher and OST SEL Specialist</p> <p>Consider whether one of <a href="#">these conflict resolution strategies</a> could enhance your implementation of Peace Paths during the school day or OST, or even offer opportunities to integrate conflict resolution into academics.</p>
<p><b>16. Encourage Student Choice</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> OST Quality Advisors Yolanda Adams and Junior Beauzier</p> <p>Invite your OST Quality Advisor to a staff meeting and chat about how you might enhance an existing OST activity by increasing opportunities for youth choice. Share your ideas with school-day staff at a Site SEL Team meeting.</p> <p><a href="#">This article</a> offers conversation starters.</p>	<p><b>17. Are You Really Promoting Equity?</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> Principal and Assistant Principal</p> <p>Check out the <a href="#">Dimensions of Equity chart</a>.</p> <p>At the next Site SEL Team meeting, reflect on whether you more often implement <i>multicultural education</i> or <i>culturally responsive pedagogy</i>.</p> <p>How can you strengthen your school's culturally responsive pedagogy practices? How can you align school-day and OST efforts?</p>	<p><b>18. Model Self-Regulation</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leader:</i> Family Liaison Chevette Gadson</p> <p>How do we teach students by example that "<a href="#">having big feelings is part of being human</a>"?</p> <p>With the help of the family liaison, design an activity on this or another SEL topic for your next family engagement event.</p>	<p><b>19. Practice Self-Care</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leaders:</i> School Day SEL Specialist/Resource Teacher and OST SEL Specialist</p> <p>How can we support our most challenging students without completely depleting ourselves as educators?</p> <p>Ask your SEL Specialists for resources and prepare to deliver a joint school-day/OST recap on self-care during your next staff meeting.</p> <p><a href="#">This article</a> helps put things in perspective.</p>	<p><b>20. Communicate Your School's SEL Mission and Vision</b></p> <p><i>Suggested Conversation Leader:</i> SEL Lead</p> <p>Use <a href="#">this slide deck</a> to re-open discussion of the SEL vision statement your team developed at the Nov. 2018 PSEL convening in Scottsdale, AZ.</p> <p>Then work on customizing the PSEL Glossary of Terms (provided at the Sept. 2019 champion community of practice) for your site. How will this information be shared across school-day and OST?</p>

