

GIVE TEACHERS A BREAK: Cutting Red Tape to Unleash the Potential of America's Great Teachers

TOP TAKEAWAYS

End Social Emotional Learning

THE PROBLEM

- Teachers are not therapists: It seems like a trivial statement, but around the country, teachers are made to dedicate hours of training and classroom instruction to social-emotional learning (SEL), a therapeutic educational approach that emphasizes feelings and progressive ideology over learning.
- SEL is not only therapy in all but name but is a highly ideological form of therapy, leveraging the activist language of “equity” to justify its existence.
- As of [2019](#), SEL is required in 19 states and encouraged in 16 others, and, as of [2023](#), all 50 states have SEL competencies included in their curriculum for at least pre-K.

THE WAY FORWARD

Requiring teachers to take on the role of quasi-therapists through SEL hinders both student learning and emotional well-being while overextending teachers beyond their job descriptions. Ending SEL would improve schools and clarify expectations for teachers, allowing them to focus on classroom instruction.

- **End Taxpayer-Funded Grants for SEL:** Cut all SEL-promoting grants at the federal, state, and local levels to disincentivize schools from further investment in SEL.
- **States Should Reject SEL Across the Board:** States should survey schools to understand SEL implementation, reject curricula that promote SEL, ensure textbooks are free of SEL content, and bar SEL curricula from teacher licensure and training programs.
- **Parental Notice and Opt-Out:** States should mandate that schools provide written notice to parents when SEL is being used and allow parents to opt their children out of SEL classes or activities where they exist as stand-alone programs.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.