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Programming

Open Circle is an evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) program for Kindergarten through Grade 5 with two goals:

1. To proactively develop children’s skills for recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving; and
2. To help schools develop a community where students feel safe, cared for and engaged in learning.

Curriculum

Classroom teachers implement the grade-differentiated Open Circle Curriculum during two 15-minute Open Circle Meetings per week. Students form a circle of chairs, including an empty seat to symbolize that there is always room for another person, voice, or opinion. These meetings are also a familiar and safe setting for children to discuss important issues in their classroom, school, local community or the broader world. Curriculum lessons explicitly teach social and emotional skills and are highly interactive, incorporating large and small group discussions, role playing, community building activities and high-quality children’s literature.

Alignment to Other School Initiatives

Open Circle reinforces and enhances learning across all academic disciplines. It is foundational to bullying prevention and intervention and is integral to nationally recognized standards like the Common Core and 21st Century Learning Standards for success in a global workforce.

Whole-School Approach

Open Circle provides a unique, whole-school model where all adults in the school community – teachers, administrators, counselors, support staff and families – learn to model and reinforce prosocial skills throughout the school day and beyond. Letters sent home by teachers introduce families to key vocabulary and lessons from the Open Circle Curriculum and Open Circle engages families through workshops.

Sustainability

Schools sustain and improve Open Circle practice over time by training peer coaches and leadership teams that provide mentorship, outcome measurement and action planning. In addition, larger districts can develop district trainers, further enhancing sustainability.
OPEN CIRCLE OUTCOMES

- Unites schools with common vocabulary
- Improves school climate
- Increases students’ use of prosocial and critical thinking skills
- Reduces negative behaviors such as peer exclusion, bullying and fighting
- Strengthens educators’ SEL skills
- Buys back time for academics through proactive behavior management

Extensive Professional Development

Open Circle excels at providing engaging professional development that combines theory, research and the practical experience of educators. By spacing professional development sessions across the school year, we enable multiple cycles of experiential learning, practice and reflection. In a recent survey, 96% of teachers agreed that Open Circle’s professional development improved their facilitation and problem-solving skills and enhanced their overall teaching practice.

Evidence Based

Two research studies have demonstrated Open Circle’s positive impact on students’ skills and behavior. The first study found that after receiving one year of Open Circle instruction, both urban and suburban students demonstrated greater social skills and fewer problem behaviors than students in control groups. The largest gains were made by students in urban areas. The second study examined middle school students with at least two prior years of Open Circle participation and found that girls showed an increase in self-assertiveness and boys showed higher levels of social skills and self-control and fewer problems with physical fighting.

Nationally Recognized

Open Circle is included on several national lists for its proven effectiveness:

- 2013 CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs
- U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Services Administration’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP)
- Model Program for the National Dropout Prevention Center
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide
- U.S. Department of Education’s Guidebook for Exemplary and Promising Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools Programs
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Prize for Activating Empathy Competition
Classroom Teacher Program

Overview
The Classroom Teacher Program (formerly Core Program) equips educators with information, tools, and strategies that are critical to effective Open Circle Curriculum implementation and integration. Through interactive and experiential professional development, participants learn about: SEL theory and research findings; teaching skills for self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships and problem solving; group development theory; dialogue facilitation; mindfulness and reflection practice; cultural responsiveness in SEL instruction; role of adults as models; integrating SEL into academics and throughout the school day; and leveraging children’s literature to teach and reinforce SEL.

What’s Included
- Three 7-hour, in-person training days (2 back-to-back in summer/fall, 1 in winter)
- Three online learning modules
- Curriculum Kit, including: Open Circle Curriculum, laminated skill mini-posters, Open Circle bookmarks and stickers, problem-solving card, chime, digital timer, and tote bag
- 24 professional development hours
- Optional graduate-level course (with additional fee and assignments)
- Optional implementation coaching (with additional fee)

Who Should Attend
- Grade K-5 classroom teachers and other staff who will regularly implement the Open Circle Curriculum with a consistent class of students

Requirements
- Year-long commitment to complete all training
- Year-long commitment to implement twice-weekly, 15-minute Open Circle lessons

Price
Training at the Wellesley College Club
- $800 per person

Training at your school or district
- $12,000 + $300 per person

Curriculum Kit includes
- Open Circle Curriculum
- Laminated skill mini-poster set
- Bookmark set and sticker set
- Problem-solving card
- Chime and digital timer
- Tote bag
Administrator Webinars

Administrator Foundations Webinar
Foundations of Open Circle
This interactive webinar introduces school and district administrators to Open Circle’s goals, guiding principles, whole-school approach, key vocabulary and alignment with the five core SEL competencies outlined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning.

Research shows that a principal’s active support is the main predictor for maintaining change in schools and ensuring positive outcomes for students.

What’s Included
• 90-minute webinar and electronic handouts

Who Should Attend
• Principals, assistant principals and district administrators new to Open Circle

Price
• $150 per person

Administrator Leadership Webinar
Leading Open Circle in Your School
This interactive professional development provides school and district administrators with tools, skills and support to lead successful SEL initiatives in their schools.

Participants complete a brief online learning module prior to attending a 90-minute interactive webinar that addresses SEL best practices, enhancing school climate, and measuring and tracking SEL outcomes.

Participants also receive an electronic copy of the Open Circle Administrator Manual and one hour of implementation support via phone or video call. Recommended for administrators familiar with Open Circle vocabulary, skills and practices.

Research shows that leadership is one of the two most critical factors for student achievement.

What’s Included
• One online learning module
• 90-minute webinar and electronic handouts
• Electronic copy of Administrator Manual
• One hour of implementation coaching via phone or video call

Who Should Attend
• Principals, assistant principals and district administrators with prior Open Circle training and/or knowledge and experience

Price
• $250 per person
Overview
This one-day workshop introduces key Open Circle vocabulary, skills and practices and explores how specialists and support staff can reinforce Open Circle concepts and integrate them to enhance their own work. This consistency and reinforcement supports students in practicing and using Open Circle skills throughout the school day. Participants develop basic knowledge of Open Circle, reflect on and appreciate their unique roles as specialists, and create practical applications of Open Circle tools for their work.

What’s Included
- One 7-hour training day
- Specialist & Support Staff Manual
- 7 professional development hours

Who Should Attend
- Special subject teachers, including physical education, music, art, special education, reading, speech, library/media, foreign language and health
- School counselors and school psychologists
- Paraprofessionals, aides and support staff

Price
Training at the Wellesley College Club
- $230 per person

Training at your school
- $4,000 + $50 per person

Specialist Workshop or Classroom Teacher Program?

Classroom Teacher Program: for educators who will teach the Open Circle Curriculum and facilitate twice-weekly meetings with a consistent class of students

Specialist Workshop: for educators who are not able to meet twice a week with a consistent class of students, but who will support what the students are learning in Open Circle
What do Open Circle Schools say?

“Open Circle provides children and adults with a common language and expectations that are essential to learning.”

“This training was invaluable to our staff and has helped our school climate immensely.”

“Since we implemented Open Circle many years ago, I have seen a huge difference in children’s ability to resolve their own conflicts and monitor their own behavior.”

“Open Circle gives kids skills to work through their own issues. We’ve used other SEL programs that don’t work as well because kids are not taught the skills.”
Family Programming

Family & Community Workshop Kit
Introduce Open Circle skills, practices and vocabulary to families and caregivers with this easy-to-use electronic kit. Deliver the full 90-minute, interactive, scripted Family & Community Workshop, or choose elements for a shorter presentation. Perfect for back-to-school nights, PTO-sponsored family nights, principal coffees/breakfasts, and other family and caregiver events.

Literature Workshop Kit
This kit includes everything you need to run an interactive workshop that describes how to use children's literature to support social and emotional learning. This engaging workshop is a good fit for presentations related to literacy and/or social and emotional learning, or family or community events.

Contents
- Scripted 90-minute PowerPoint presentation
- Facilitator guide, tips and resources
- Electronic handouts to distribute to workshop participants

Price
- $100 per kit

Family Home Link Letters
The Open Circle Curriculum contains Home Link letters in English and Spanish for classroom teachers to send home to parents and caregivers.

Each letter explains the skill, vocabulary, and practices covered in one or more Open Circle lessons and also provides practical tips to help families discuss and practice these skills at home. A list of children's books that connect to these skills is also included.
Overview

This 15-month program prepares and certifies two trainers per school/district to deliver Open Circle professional development for grade-level teachers, administrators and specialists and support staff. Through a combination of in-person and online training and mentoring, trainers develop the skills, content knowledge and experience to effectively train new and existing school staff. Certified trainers provide schools and districts with a cost-effective approach for implementing and sustaining Open Circle over time.

What’s Included

Training & Mentoring
- 3 days of training in the summer
- Three 1½-hour online trainings
- Four 1 to 2-hour online mentoring sessions
- Access to trainer resource website
- Upon certification, annual participation in one 1½-hour online trainer meeting and two 1-hour online mentoring sessions
- 28 professional development hours

Materials
- Trainer Kit (including trainer bag, manual, materials, videos)
- Set of Open Circle Curriculum
- Curriculum Kit
- Specialist & Support Staff Manual

Prerequisite
- Completion of the Classroom Teacher Program
- 1+ years implementing the Open Circle Curriculum

School/District Commitment
- Commit to at least four years of Open Circle implementation
- Support delivery of at least one training per year
- Designate a coordinator to manage training logistics
- Recertify trainers every four years

Who Should Attend

Trainer candidates who:
- are committed to social and emotional learning for children and adults;
- have demonstrated experience delivering professional development to diverse groups of educators;
- have excellent verbal, interpersonal, communication and presentation skills;
- are organized and effective with time management;
- are self-aware, reflective and able to offer and receive constructive feedback; and
- are available to lead training sessions during the summer and school year.

Certification Requirements
- Attend all training and mentoring sessions
- Deliver training for at least one Core Program session in the current school year
- Videotape three delivered training components and share with mentor for feedback
- Provide mentor with copies of all training participant evaluations

Price
- $16,000 per team of two trainers (recommended) or $10,000 per single trainer
Overview

This year-long program helps schools grow and sustain long-term, schoolwide Open Circle implementation. Schools establish an SEL Team that meets monthly to plan and carry out actions that strengthen SEL and school climate. During the one-day training session, teams assess their school's SEL strengths, challenges and opportunities; identify an SEL focus area; and develop goals and activities to reach those goals. Teams are encouraged to look at existing programs that align or can be integrated with Open Circle (such as PBIS, school climate and school improvement plans). Mentoring meetings throughout the year help guide the process of monitoring and measuring SEL goals and activities.

As a result of participating in this program, schools report improved quality and consistency of Open Circle facilitation, increased use of Open Circle vocabulary and skills throughout the school day, improved classroom and school climate and integration of SEL into school improvement plans and family engagement initiatives.

What’s Included

- 7-hour training day, held at school site
- Three 1-hour mentoring calls
- 8 copies of Sustainability Manual
- 7 professional development hours

Who Should Attend

Your SEL Team should include 8 individuals representing the varied roles in your school community as follows:

- principal
- 3 grade-level teachers from different grades who implement the Open Circle Curriculum
- school counselor, psychologist or social worker
- 2 specialists or support staff members
- parent, caregiver or other school community member

You can leverage an existing, related team for your SEL sustainability work. If your related team does not include at least eight people and representatives from each of the roles noted above, please broaden the team accordingly.

Requirements

- Year-long commitment to participate in training and all mentoring calls as a team
- Year-long commitment to hold monthly SEL Team meetings
- Designated SEL Team member to schedule mentoring calls

Price

Training at your school
- $3,000 per school

“The framework for the day and tools to create an action plan were invaluable. We are ready to begin and that never happens after a 1-day workshop - thanks!”

- Jim Lee, Principal
Happy Hollow Elementary
Wayland, MA
Implementation Coaching

Overview
High quality implementation is critical to effective and sustained social and emotional learning. Many schools find that targeted implementation coaching strengthens SEL practice and whole-school integration. Coaching may focus on supporting individual teachers, counselors, specialists and support staff, grade-level teams or school leaders. Options include:

- Video coaching for individual staff
- Coaching for grade-level teams
- SEL leadership coaching for administrators

Who Should Participate
Schools may benefit from implementation coaching at any time – from their first year using Open Circle to many years later. This program is open to all schools focused on strengthening implementation and continuous improvement for SEL.

Price
Coaching at your school
- $2,000 per day

Coaching via video/phone call
- $250 per hour
Curriculum Review Workshop

Overview
This 3-hour workshop, held at your school or district, is designed for grades K-5 classroom teachers who have been trained in our Classroom Teacher Program (formerly Core Program) and are currently using a 2014 or earlier edition of the Open Circle Curriculum. We will provide an overview of the many updates to the curriculum and familiarize teachers with the revised unit structure, additional vocabulary, new mindfulness practices, expanded activities section, new reflection and assessment tools, streamlined problem-solving lessons, and other key updates. Participants will receive one Curriculum Kit, including the 2015 edition Open Circle Curriculum and 3 PD hours.

What’s Included
- One 3-hour workshop
- Curriculum Kit
- 3 professional development hours

Who Should Attend
- Grades K-5 classroom teachers and other staff members implementing the Open Circle Curriculum who completed the Classroom Teacher Program (formerly Core Program) prior to 2015.

Prerequisite
- Classroom Teacher Program (formerly Core Program)

Price
Training at your school
- $2,000 per school plus $225 per participant (10% savings on Curriculum Kit!)
OPEN CIRCLE’S MISSION

To advance children’s wellbeing and learning
by partnering with school communities
to foster social and emotional development
and caring learning environments.
Pricing 2017-2018

Programs

Register on our website for the following programs. Some programs can be provided on-site at your school. Prices are per person, except as noted.

Classroom Teacher Program* ........................................... $800
Specialist & Support Staff Workshop* .......................$230
Administrator Introductory Webinar ...............................$150
Administrator Leadership Webinar ................................$250
Train-the-Trainer ...................... $10,000/$16,000 per team
Sustainability Program* .........................$3,000 per school
Curriculum Review Workshop* .......... $2,000 per school
Implementation Coaching*.............. $2,000 per day/
(via phone/video call) $250 per hour

*Contact us about holding these trainings at your school

Funding Open Circle in Your School

Open Circle strives to keep prices low and ensure that our programming is accessible to all schools. Some schools fund Open Circle through their operating budgets while others secure external funds such as those listed below.

Visit the Funding Resources page on our website for more funding resources and links.

Federal Funding (under ESSA)

See ASCD’s guide to funding for SEL in Every Student Succeeds Act for more information

- Title I – Parts A, C, D
- Title II – Part A
- Title IV – Parts A & B
- Title V – Part B

School or District Funds

- Discretionary professional development funds
- Prevention, safety, school climate, character education, health education, mental health, school reform or turnaround, local groups

Local Groups

- Parent-teacher organizations/associations
- Education or other private foundations
- Mayor’s Offices - municipal government
- Service organizations (e.g. Jaycees, Lion’s Club)
- Local businesses (e.g. banks, retailers, real estate)
- Hospitals and medical clinics
- Private foundations

Materials

For participants who completed applicable programs. Order on the Materials page on our website.

Curriculum Kit .................................................................$250
Family & Community Workshop Kit ..................... $100
Literature Workshop Kit .............................................. $100
Poster Set (English or Spanish) .................................$100
Specialist & Support Staff Manual ..............................$50
Open Circle Bookmarks (set of 25) .............................$25
Open Circle Problem-Solving Cards (set of 25) ......$25