



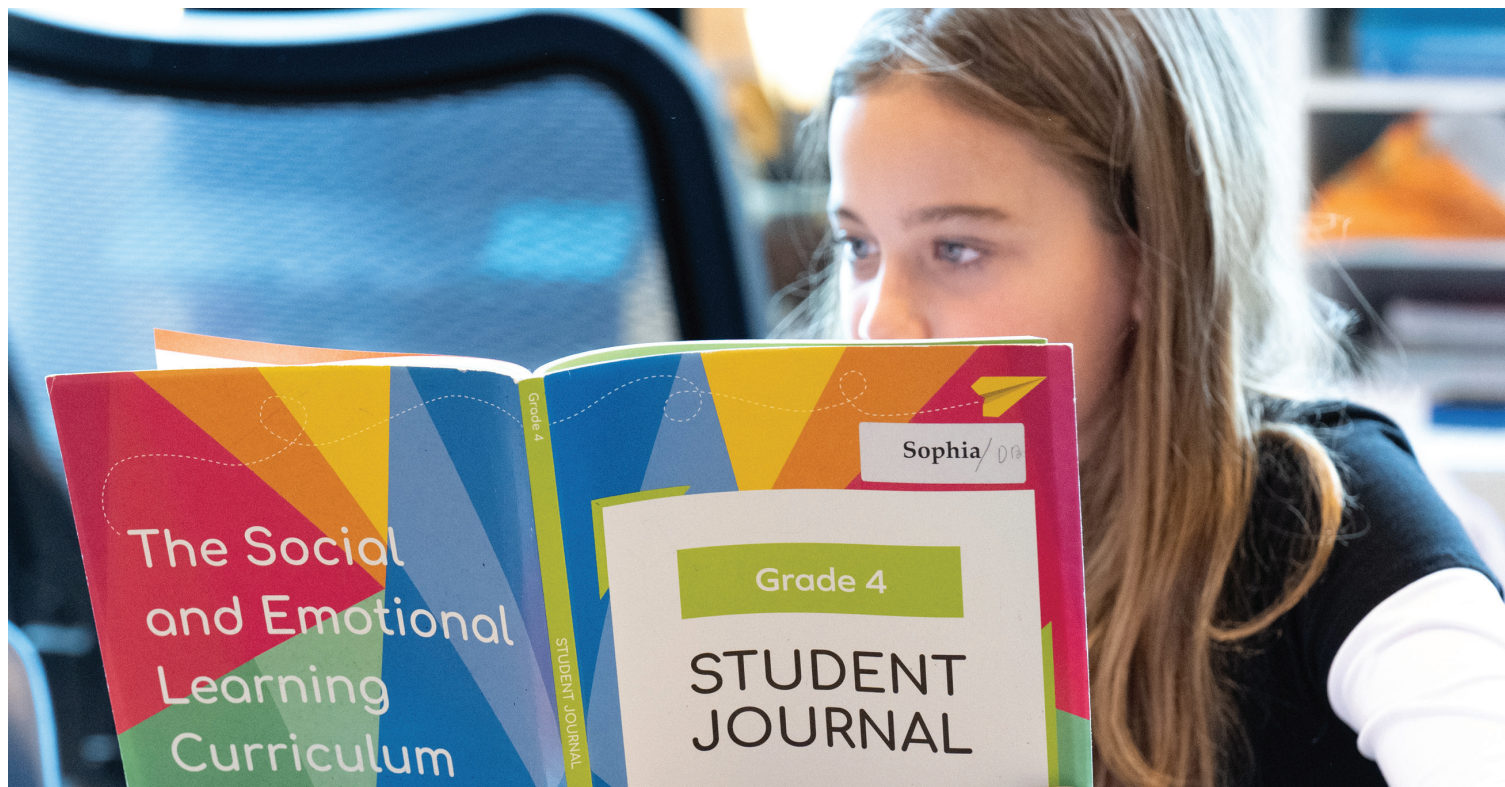
SEL + LITERACY: A POWERFUL PAIR



One of the most powerful tools educators can use—is the integration of SEL into already existing literacy content. This dynamic combination not only improves students' academic achievement, but positively impacts student behavior, skill development, and personal growth. (National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, 2019; Mahoney et al., 2018; Zins et al., 2004).

Let's take a closer look at how literacy and SEL support each other:

SEL Supports Literacy by . . .	Literacy Supports SEL by . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring students developmentally appropriate social-emotional needs • Developing academic “soft” skills that students need to succeed in reading and language arts such as teamwork, critical thinking, communication, decision-making and perseverance • Promoting a positive classroom environment where students feel a sense of belonging and significance in order to achieve academic success • Expanding a students' capacity to value and respect cultural differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the exploration of human conflict, relationships, and experiences • Providing ample opportunities for social interactions including formal and informal discussions with peers • Including diverse representation in literary resources that offer an opportunity for students to practice and build cognitive empathy • Offering opportunities for student reflection, promoting personal meaning-making





Avenue A Books has created the Adventures of the Center City Kids series, a new read-aloud component, to develop SEL and literacy skills simultaneously in the classroom or at home. This series includes 20 read-aloud books that purposely align the exploration of SEL skills with the development of literacy and academic skills. Each story connects to a reading, writing, and listening/speaking Common Core standard. Additionally, they foster the development of SEL skills within the C.A.R.E.S. competencies: Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-control. Teaching SEL and literacy alongside the core curriculum allows students to make critical connections between the content, their lives, and the world. Through these books, Avenue A hopes to support educators in creating literacy-rich classrooms that empower students for years to come. Learn more about Avenue A and the Adventure series [here](#).

References



Mahoney et al., 2018

National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, 2019

Zins et al., 2004