

Social-Emotional Workgroup

Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk ACTS is a diverse and transformative Community Partnership of over 100 civic leaders and organizations, including the Norwalk Public Schools, committed to taking Collective Action to improve community level outcomes for children, cradle to career.

- Community level outcomes focused on:
 - Academic
 - Social-Emotional Development
 - Health and Wellness

Why was it important to develop a Norwalk ACTS Social-Emotional workgroup?

- We all recognize that Social-Emotional Learning and Development impacts a child's ability to achieve and thrive academically.
- There was a great deal of anecdotal information from Norwalk's schools and community providers about the growing Social-Emotional needs of children and the lack of community resources to meet those needs.
- If we overlooked Social-Emotional Learning in the development of our outcomes, our work in support of Norwalk's children would suffer.

Who was invited?

- Professionals who were working each day to understand and address the complex Social- Emotional needs of the youth in Norwalk
- People who were providing direct services to children to meet their Social-Emotional needs
- People building and overseeing programs to meet the Social-Emotional needs of children

Who did we convene? A cross-sector Social-Emotional Workgroup of Community and State providers

- Carver Center
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children
- Birth to Three
- Kids in Crisis
- Silvermine Arts Center
- St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Services
- Norwalk Public Schools
- Family & Children's Agency
- Community Health Center, Inc.
- Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center
- Fairfield University
- Early Childhood Consultation Partnership
- School Based Health Centers
- Department of Children & Families
- Norwalk Housing Authority
- Norwalk Early Childhood Council
- South Norwalk Community Center

What did we accomplish?

- Gathered 29 community professionals who were doing this important work with children each day and who faced similar challenges
- Established that we have consensus around (1) how critical Social-Emotional Learning is to a child's success in life, and (2) we can move the needle
- Developed a mission statement for our work

Our Mission Statement

“Organize and provide resources to develop the social and emotional skills essential for lifelong success of Norwalk’s children and families.”

What did we accomplish?

- Selected tools for baseline assessment – Ages & Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional (ASQ-SE) and the Attitudes & Behaviors (A&B) Survey
- Developed a plan to complete a baseline assessment for incoming kindergarteners and all children ages 11-18 in Norwalk

The Power of Data

- Need to get a baseline “snapshot” of where Norwalk children stand in their Social- Emotional Development by gathering data.
- Use data to develop strategic Community alignment of resources in support of the Social-Emotional needs of young people.

Where Are We Today?

- Baseline assessment being completed for all incoming kindergarteners – data to be compiled by Fall 2016
- Working with Norwalk Board of Education to gain approval to complete baseline assessment of all 11-18 year olds
- Through our work, the community's awareness of Social-Emotional Learning and its importance is growing – the conversations are happening!