

### School Discipline

Students with chronic behavior problems face significant challenges in the classroom. Students displaying behavior problems often exhibit other high-risk indicators such as excessive absenteeism, lack of engagement, academic difficulties in multiple content areas, and grade retention. In order to ensure all students' are successful academically, school systems and schools must also play an essential role in a student's social and emotional well being.

### Urgent Intervention Required-Discipline (UIR-D)

As part of Louisiana's ESSA plan, schools with an out-of-school suspension rate of double the national average for three consecutive years are identified as Urgent Intervention Required for discipline (UIR-D). This is defined as an out-of-school suspension rate greater than 5.2% for grades PK-4, and greater than 20.2% for grades 5-12. As of 2019-2020, there were 48 schools identified as UIR-D.

### Louisiana Department of Education

**Believe to Achieve: Educational Priority:** Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.

**Focus Area:** Mental and behavioral health, social emotional learning, and trauma-informed care

**Division, Student Well Being:** Students engage in a safe, supportive and equitable learning environment that promotes positive relationships and develops the social-emotional skills and agency that leads to personal and academic success.

*In order to achieve this vision, the following strategies should occur:*

- 1. Prioritize positive, intentional relationships. Schools facilitate meaningful interactions to develop sustaining, strong relationships within the classroom and throughout the school.*
- 2. Attend to Individual Students' Needs. Schools provide individualized supports and services to meet the social, emotional and behavioral health of students.*
- 3. Respond to Student Behavior with Appropriate Support. Schools address policies and practices to ensure that students receive appropriate support.*

**Strategy:** *Attend to Individual Students' Needs. Schools provide individualized supports and services to meet the social, emotional and behavioral health of students.*

**Social Emotional Learning and Academic Integration Program Purpose:**

- Through a competitive process, Louisiana State University was selected to provide high quality comprehensive support to school system administrators, school administrators and school leadership teams of school with a primary label of Urgent Intervention Required-Discipline (UIR-D) with the knowledge needed to ensure students acquire and apply social-emotional competencies and skills to improve social behaviors, the ability to regulate emotions, and student achievement.

**Social Emotional Learning and Academic Integration Program Modules:**

- **Module 1: What is SEL and Why Is It Important to Academic Achievement:** This module will focus on what SEL is and the importance of social-emotional development and practice for adults and students in the K-12 learning environment.
- **Module 2: Providing SEL Through A Racial Equity Lens:** This module will focus on developing the capacity of administrators through understanding and exploring identity, biases, daily practices and interactions with students.
- **Module 3: Promoting Adult SEL Skills and Competencies:** This module will focus administrators on the development of skills and practices that support adult SEL competencies.
- **Module 4: Embedding SEL as a School-wide System:** This module will focus on the integration of social, emotional and academic development (SEAD) school-wide.
- **Module 5: Building a School Improvement Plan to Implement SEL:** This module will focus on building a school improvement plan to implement evidence-based SEL to address discipline.

**Strategy:** *Respond to Student Behavior with Appropriate Support. Schools address policies and practices to ensure that students receive appropriate support.*

**Mental Health Professional Demonstration Grant Purpose:**

- The purpose of the grant is to expand the capacity of Local Education Agencies, by placement of Louisiana State University social worker students, to expand mental health services to students in Louisiana high need schools through a partnership with the LSU School of Social Work.
- This work is currently concentrated in 12 LEAs.