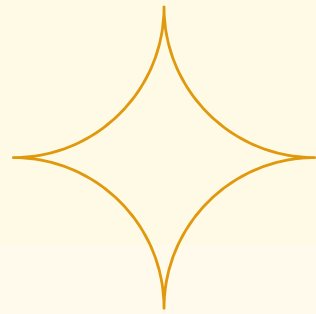
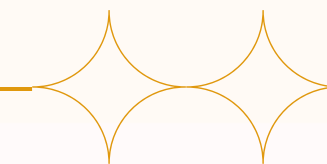


May 1st, 2025

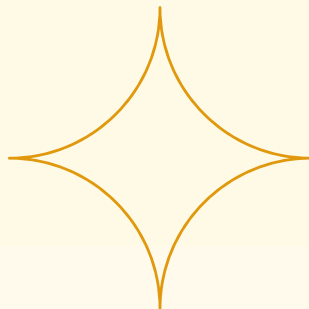


# Thesis Defense

Presented By Maile Marguleas



CYES Praxis

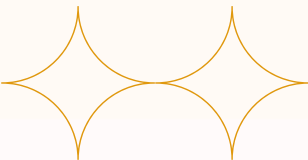


# WHAT LED ME HERE...

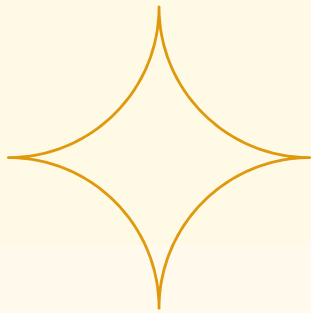
***Understanding Teachers' Experiences with  
an SEL Curriculum from a Socio-Cultural  
Competence Lens***



- Experience with SEL in High School
- Grew up in multi-cultural and multi-lingual school setting
- Kids deserve more.







# CONTEXT

## Location

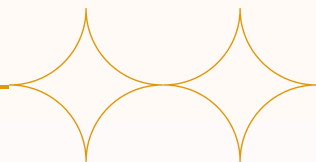
Independent  
Private Day  
School, Not a part  
of the Main South  
community, PWI

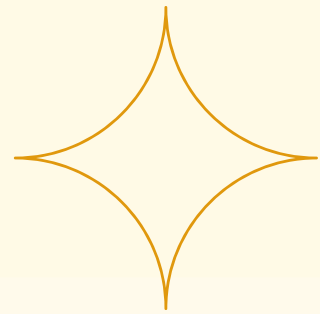
## Participants

Teachers in Pre-k  
through 8th grade  
& Head of  
Lower/Middle  
Schools

## Data Collection

Interviews &  
online  
anonymous  
surveys





# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**1**

What are teachers' experiences with implementing their SEL curriculum?

**2**

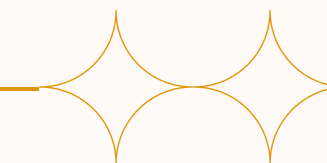
What are some benefits and challenges with implementing their SEL curriculum?

**3**

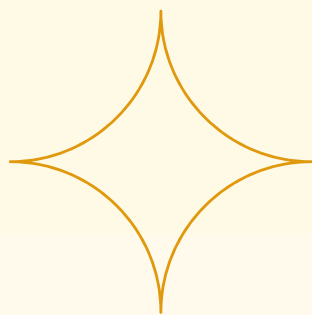
What additional support (from the school, parents, etc.) could help teachers implement their SEL curriculum?

**4**

How do teachers incorporate students' cultural backgrounds into their SEL instruction, and what challenges or strategies emerge in making SEL culturally responsive?

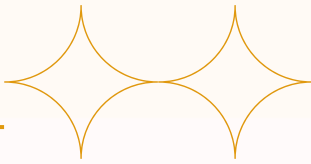
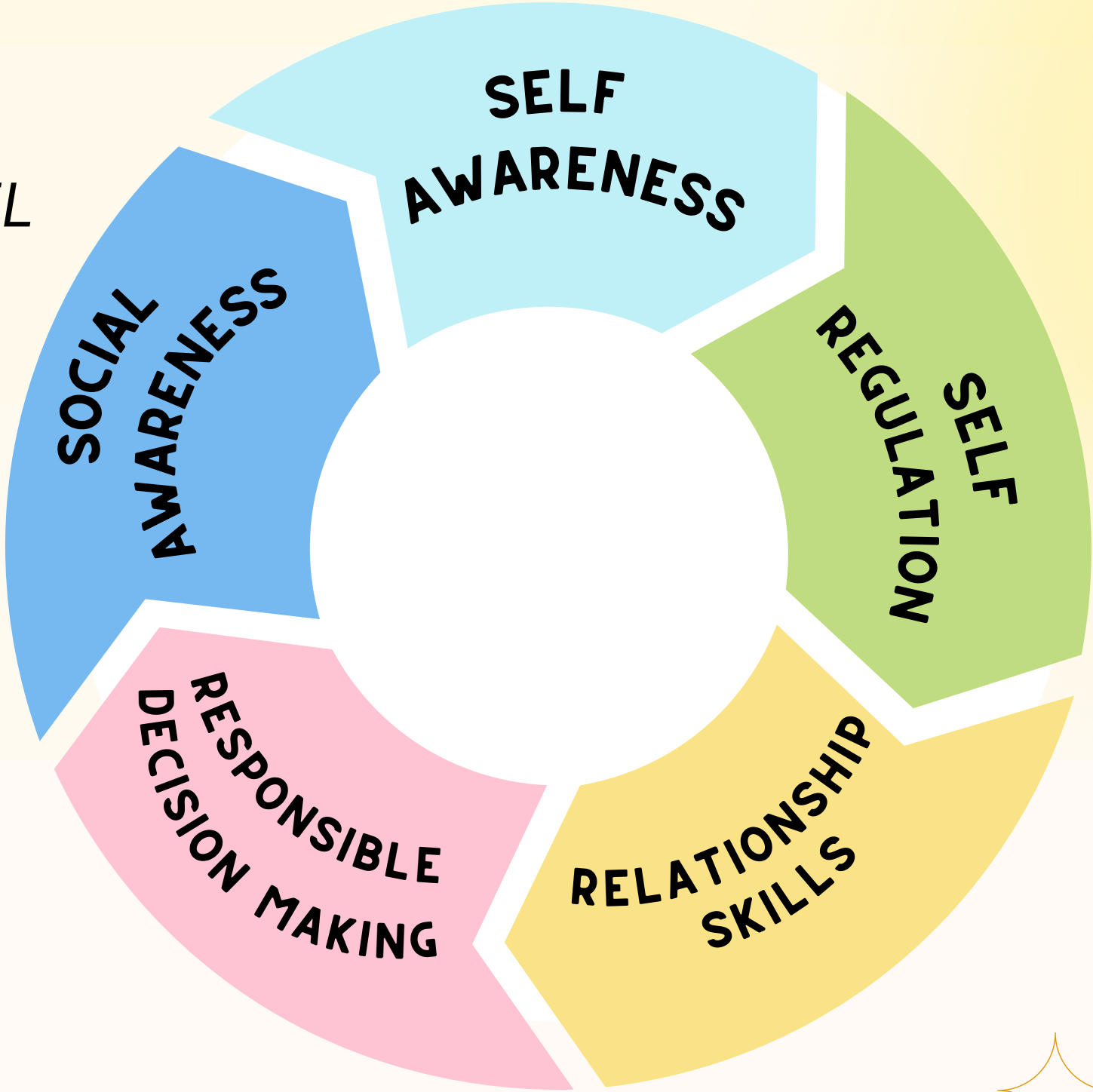


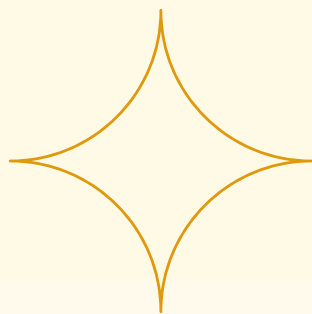




# THE 5 ELEMENTS OF SEL

*According to CASEL  
Framework:*





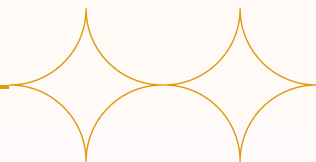
# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



Social Emotional  
Learning (SEL)  
Theory



Teacher Social  
Emotional  
Competency (SEC)  
Theory





# FINDINGS:

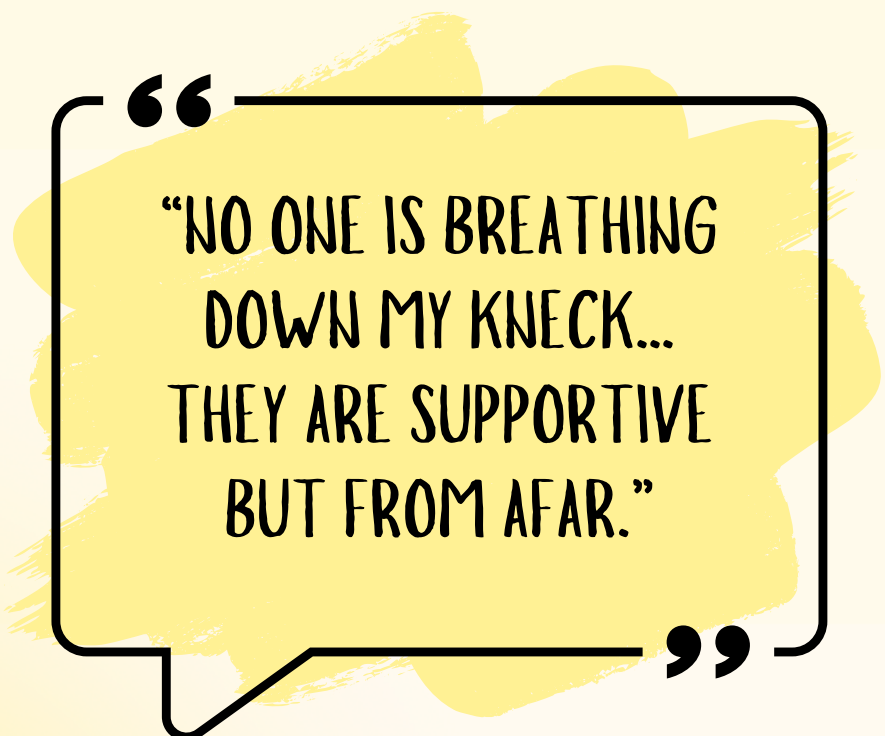
## Communication between Grade Levels & Schools

“ I THINK SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL MAYBE WOULD BE LIKE US OBSERVING EACH OTHER'S CLASSROOMS LIKE SINCE [OTHER TEACHER] HAS LIKE USED IT BEFORE LIKE MAYBE WE GO OBSERVE A LESSON IN [THEIR CLASS] EACH DAY OR LIKE JUST SEEING IT IN PRACTICE IN OTHER CLASSROOMS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL OR HELPFUL”


“A TEACHING SPACE WHERE YOU CAN TAKE RISKS AND TRY NEW THINGS... LET US TALK ABOUT IT.”

# FINDINGS:

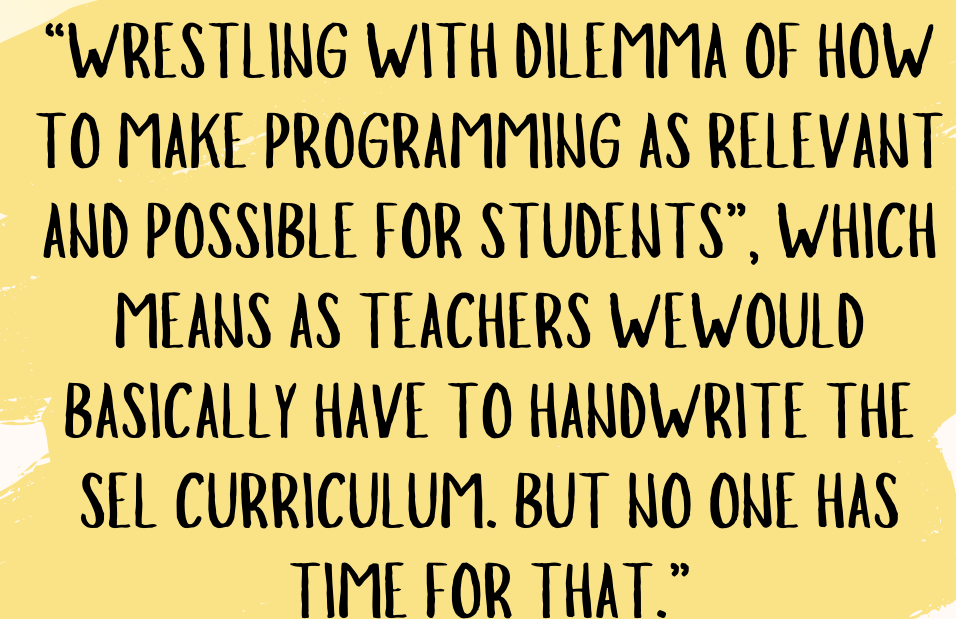
## More Involvement with Administration



“NO ONE IS BREATHING  
DOWN MY KNECK...  
THEY ARE SUPPORTIVE  
BUT FROM AFAR.”



“UM THERE'S A THERE'S DEFINITELY A TRUST  
IS REQUIRED ON BOTH ENDS. THEY NEED TO  
BE ABLE TO TRUST ME AND I NEED TO BE  
ABLE TO TRUST THEM. AND THAT OPEN  
COMMUNICATION IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE  
THAT THINGS HAPPEN.”

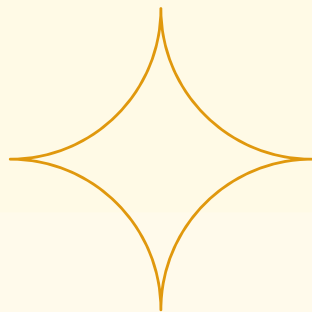


“WRESTLING WITH DILEMMA OF HOW  
TO MAKE PROGRAMMING AS RELEVANT  
AND POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS”, WHICH  
MEANS AS TEACHERS WE WOULD  
BASICALLY HAVE TO HANDWRITE THE  
SEL CURRICULUM. BUT NO ONE HAS  
TIME FOR THAT.”



# FINDINGS:

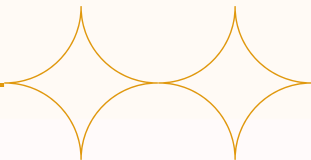
## How DEI & Multicultural Competencies Come Into Play

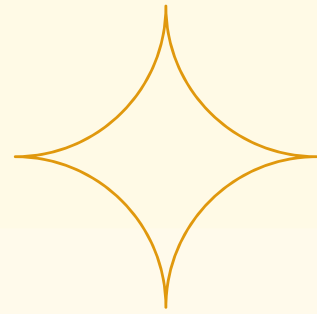


“CURRICULUM AND CULTURAL GO HAND IN HAND”

“... IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF [THE DEI DIRECTOR] WOULD JUMP IN ON [SEL] CONVERSATIONS BECAUSE LIKE WHILE I FEEL CONFIDENT LEADING THEM, AND I THINK IT'S GOOD FOR LIKE MY COLLEAGUES, MY OTHER TEAM LEADERS TO SEE HOW SOMEBODY WOULD MODEL THAT KIND OF CONVERSATION, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE HIM MODEL THAT TYPE OF CONVERSATION BECAUSE I'M SURE [...] LIKE HE JUST HAS A DIFFERENT IDENTITY THAN I DO IN SOME AREAS.”

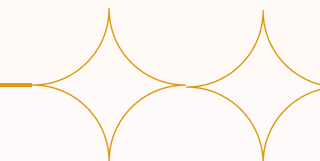
“I WANT THEM TO HAVE A DIFFERENT EXPOSURE TO IT BECAUSE THEIR WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM MINE.”



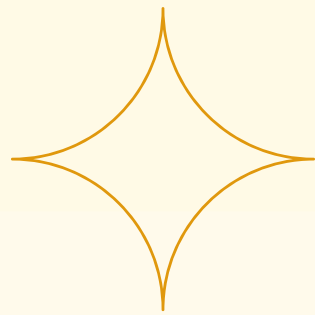


# WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

- “Menu” of action steps
- Reflection opportunity with DEI
- Q&A with teachers
- List of recommendations for administration
- Create a shared outcome & community guidelines  
between admin & teachers
- Last day of school year-what’s next?

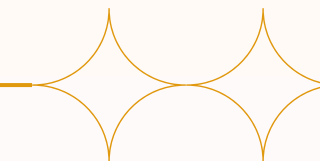


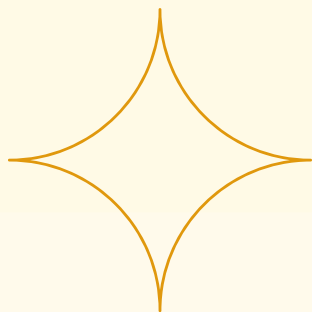




# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Understanding teacher experiences and addressing the lack of schoolwide culture of SEL
- How do I move from individual/classroom-based SEL to more of a schoolwide model?
- Support from administration versus wants and needs of teachers
- How do I account for socio-cultural competencies in teachings?
- What are ways that I can increase access to SEL in Worcester?
- Is it more important that more schools have SEL or that the SEL that is in schools right now is of a high quality? (access or quality)



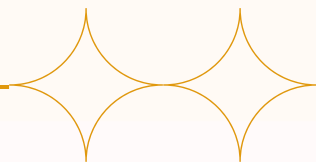


# PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

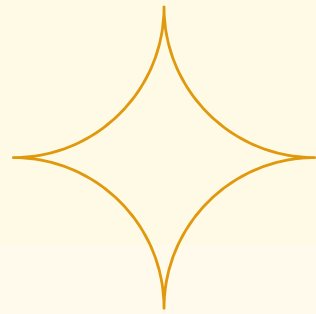
- Socio-Cultural Competencies don't just apply to SEL
- Why do you think you don't have enough knowledge? What is holding you back?
- I assume that SEL HAS to do with lengual-cultural
- Is there a disconnect???
- Is this bigger than myself?



- Socio-Cultural Competencies don't just apply to SEL
- Why do you think you don't have enough knowledge? What is holding you back?
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- Is this bigger than myself?







# Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

