



Our program is a social and emotional learning (SEL) program that fuses SEL with character education, positive psychology, emotional intelligence, neuroscience, and mindfulness. These branches of knowledge, and the essential principles highlighted in our program, have decades of scientific and qualitative research supporting their effectiveness. In addition, each of the character values in the Choose Love Formula (Courage+Gratitude+Forgiveness+Compassion in Action), which are at the heart of our program, have strong evidence supporting their many benefits. We discuss these in greater detail in each introduction to our program and in the Educator Guide."

Choose Love For Schools™ teaches skills and concepts that are grounded in and support Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), addressing the [5 Core Competencies as defined by CASEL](#) (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making Skills). SEL has decades of research validating its tremendous and positive impact on students' social and emotional well-being as well as on academic and personal success. For more information on SEL and specific research on SEL, we encourage you to visit <https://casel.org/> where you can be linked to SEL research and its impressive benefits.

Overall, Scientific research proves that teaching evidence-based SEL in the classroom significantly [benefits all children](#), including those with special needs— that is, academically, behaviorally, physically, mentally and socio-emotionally. To summarize the research data referenced above, benefits include improvements in social cognitive skills, self-control, and frustration tolerance; decreased anxiety, depression, sadness, and withdrawal; improved classroom atmosphere; less aggression and self-destructive behavior, including drug-use initiation; better scores on standardized achievement tests; more assertive social skills, effective conflict resolution, and increased pro-social behaviors, as well as less violence and more empathy.

This fall, for the 2020-2021 school year, our program has been updated to align with Character.org's new [Model Standards for Character and Social-Emotional Development](#). These standards include the 5 core components of SEL (Self-awareness, Self-management, Social awareness, Interpersonal/relationship skills, Responsible & Ethical decision-making) as well as Moral, Performance, Intellectual and Civic character strengths.

Aside from the foundational and guiding evidence-based and research-grounded competencies and principles which comprise our program, the Choose Love Enrichment Program package has been systematically evaluated by [The University of Arkansas](#) researchers, Dr. David D. Christian, PhD, LPC-S Assistant Professor of Counselor Education & Kristin K. Higgins, PhD, LPC-S Associate Professor of Counselor Education Department of Rehabilitation, Human Resources, and Communication Disorders College of Education and Health Professions University of Arkansas et al., who assessed our program in an alternative school setting. The preliminary findings showed positive impacts and results, which have been submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

In addition, during the school year of 2016-2017, [Ka'elepulu Elementary Elementary School in Kailua Hawaii](#) was the first pilot school to implement the Choose Love Enrichment Program. The administration conducted its own research within its classrooms that resulted in substantial positive outcomes in all areas. The reported outcomes of this study can be reviewed [here](#).

While not intended to scientifically assess the effectiveness of the program, we also collect survey-based program evaluation data annually for quality improvement purposes, where we survey all users about their experience and satisfaction with the program. Of respondents (N=277) to the 2019 Choose Love Educator Survey (feedback from 44 states):

- **99%** said that they have seen an improvement in classroom climate and in the students' overall behavior
- **73%** said that their students get along better
- **81%** said their students have a more positive attitude
- **62%** have seen an increase in academic performance in their students
- **95%** rated the program 'good', 'very good', or 'excellent'
- **99%** said they enjoyed teaching the program
- **96%** said their students enjoyed the program

Another study was recently performed to investigate the perceptions of educators towards their role with meeting the social and emotional needs of students, as well as how educators and students experience participation in a school-based social emotional learning (SEL) program, with particular focus on the experience of educators and students participating in the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program. Data were collected through a qualitative multiple case study design, resulting in the following themes: Perceived Role of SEL in Schools, Purpose of SEL Instruction, SEL Implementation Requirements, and Benefits of SEL. Educators and students were in agreement about program outcomes. [View complete study here.](#)

Of additional interest might be the adoption of the Choose Love For Schools program by the state of New Hampshire. In 2018, Gov. Chris Sununu's School Safety Preparedness Task Force recommended that it was necessary to expand SEL statewide. Equipped with this knowledge, Gov. Sununu made implementing CLEP a statewide initiative (the first in the nation to do so). To support this initiative, Gov. Sununu hired support and our team is working closely with his office as well as the office of Homeland Security to ensure all schools have the proper channels to teach the program effectively. [Here is the first year report](#) of Choose Love implementation in NH.

Last and certainly not least, we have an extensive database of qualitative data in the form of testimonials, educator feedback, student work samples, personal testimonies, and more, praising the Choose Love Enrichment program and its impact on students, classrooms, and schools. This rich qualitative data highlights the personalized ways in which the Choose Love Enrichment Program goes beyond a program by initiating a daily practice whereby educators and students, classrooms and schools, create and sustain a positive culture of love. It has been amazing to hear and read about how students have been individually and collectively empowered as they are better able to handle emotions, are able to be resilient in the face of adversity, can connect in meaningful ways with their peers, are engaged in a positive classroom culture, and are able to make healthy, responsible choices that better their lives and the lives of others. This qualitative data is what we consider to be some of the most valid and important data of all. We have provided a sample following the REFERENCES section.

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TESTIMONIALS

“In an educational landscape where many educators have the ‘not one more thing’ mentality, Choose Love is a breath of fresh air. In fact, it is the time I most look forward to all week.” -- E Birdin, Long Meadow Elementary, CT

“We have seen such a positive change in children and teachers. They are finding gratitude in the smallest things - these children live in extreme poverty, yet they are grateful. I've seen an increase in resilience in the students overall. I think the biggest change we've seen is the compassion they show to one another now. They are able to step outside of themselves and recognize the pain of others. I've had kids bring other kids to my room and say, 'he needs to be in our group because ...' “ -- Lisa Mackenzie, CA

“Teaching the core concepts of the Choose Love Enrichment Program fundamentally transformed my classroom and became part of our culture. During the course of teaching the formula for choosing love, my classroom climate improved dramatically and students began using the phrase ‘choosing love’ not only in our classroom but in their daily lives. In addition, I personally benefited and was able to use the lessons in my own life. I feel that I am a better person because I implemented the Choose Love Enrichment Program in my class.” -- Krislyn Petti, Wilby High School, CT

“When a teacher meets their class for the first time they have planned lessons of how to improve the academic performance of each student and have a class management system in place. As we face them on the first day we don't know anything about homes and stresses in their lives. Classrooms need relationship building curriculums which The Choose Love Enrichment Program provides for students at all grade levels and soon to be families alike.” John Cook, All Saints School

“I found that it was 100% effective, not only did it help with my at-risk students, it helped with my students that were doing well. It teaches social-emotional learning, it teaches self-improvement, and also compassion in action. It is one of the best programs I have ever found. It is innovative, it can be used across your district. If you want to make a difference not only in your students, but in your overall faculty, you need to take advantage of this program.” Ginger Ulmer, Boonville, AR

“I am overwhelmed with the LOVE that is being spread in HAMBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT!!!! There is not enough time to type everything, but I will try to give you a quick summary. In Portland Elementary--every child has his or her journals. They are decorated. They have had their first lessons. In Hamburg Pre-K, lots of coloring and conversation have gone down about Choosing Love and being kind to others. They too have posters and coloring sheets. At NAES--the building leaders have taken on the job of delivering the

lessons. **WOW!!!** This has been soooooo powerful. It is so moving. They are loving it. They too have posters and coloring sheets. At HMS---Talk about rocking it. I have visited many classes. The English teachers revamped their entire curriculum to work the lessons into their literacy maps. **WOW!!!** I have seen skits, heard conversations, seen reading. This has been a positive storm to this building. Every teacher's door has a message on it. Kids are talking it. Thank you is not enough.” -- Tracey Streeter, Hamburg, AR

VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

[MAS Charter School, New Mexico](#)

[West Warwick, RI](#)

[Boonville High School, Arkansas](#)

[Prairie Elementary School, California](#)

[Educator Conversations](#)