



**An Invitation to Apply for the Position of
Senior Researcher
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning**

Posting Date: March 2023

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), a nonprofit organization based in Chicago, is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of social and emotional learning (SEL). CASEL's mission is to help make evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) an integral part of preschool through high school education across the country. We believe that systemic educational efforts that promote students' social and emotional competence are a key ingredient that will enable all young people in our diverse society to lead healthier, happier, more productive, and fulfilling lives.

With committed and growing philanthropic funding and a cohesive strategic plan, CASEL is endeavoring to:

- Support the implementation and document the impact of systemic SEL in large school districts and socio-demographically diverse school districts across this nation.
- Capture, refine, and test the learnings to advance the research base for the process of implementing systemic SEL and share that knowledge broadly.
- Identify and evaluate interventions and assessment tools to accelerate high-quality implementation of SEL nationwide.
- Partner with SEL program providers, colleges of education, professional organizations, school districts, and researchers to support scaling of SEL.
- Promote federal and state policies that encourage academic, social, and emotional learning.
- Strategically communicate to foster widespread demand for SEL as an essential part of students' education at the classroom, school, district, state, and national level.

POSITION SUMMARY

CASEL seeks a full-time Senior Researcher to join the team. This position is fully remote, and will report directly to the Assistant Director of Learning and Improvement.

The Senior Researcher will collaborate within the research team and across other CASEL teams (e.g., practice, policy) to study the implementation of systemic social and emotional learning in service of equity and excellence. More specifically, the Senior Researcher will be supporting two priority CASEL products-the CASEL Guide to Evidence-Based Programming, and national SEL implementation studies portfolio. This role requires strong program evaluation skills, and employs quantitative and mixed-method study designs to analyze and report on data from CASEL partners, national education databases (e.g., NCES's district data dashboard), and other national data sources.

OPPORTUNITIES/EXPECTATIONS

The Senior Researcher will:

- Analyze and rate evaluation studies of SEL programs and practices.
- Translate a variety of data forms into quantitative data and conduct appropriate statistical analysis.
- Develop research questions and analysis plans related to continuous improvement and impact data.
- Design and conduct research and evaluation studies to examine systemic SEL implementation at the classroom, school, district, state, regional, and national levels.
- Develop research questions and analysis plans.
- Create data collection instruments (e.g. survey questionnaires, observation protocols, etc.) for use with stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, school and district leaders, etc.
- Collect quantitative data.
- Conduct appropriate data analyses to answer target research and evaluation questions.
- Develop and implement project plans, processes and assessments for creating and revising CASEL's tools and resources such as the Program Guide.
- Critically analyze research and evaluation studies from the SEL field, including impact studies.
- Transform data from surveys, Excel files, and databases into actionable sources of information across the organization.
- Generate insightful and/or innovative ways of using and presenting data that advance our work and goals.
- Prepare clear and compelling written documents and presentations for stakeholders who may not have experience working with complex data.
- Generate insightful and/or innovative ways of using and presenting data that advance CASEL's research and learning goals.
- Support research associates in their data analysis plans.
- Prepare clear and compelling written documents and presentations for stakeholders who may not have experience working with complex data.
- Codify knowledge (practices & content) and support the development of dissemination products (e.g., journal articles, white papers, and infographics).
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The background and educational experience required for this position are:

- Ability to conduct univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistical analysis (required), and multilevel modeling (preferred).
- Background in education practice, research, and/or policy. (highly preferred).
- At least a Master's degree in social sciences or education with quantitative research skills, including experience designing program evaluation strategies and comfort interpreting results from statistical procedures.
- Experience with statistical analysis software such as R, SPSS, or STATA (R and SPSS highly preferred).
- Experience with data visualization software (Tableau highly preferred).

- Experience with mixed-methods research and data analyses.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND COMPETENCIES

The personal characteristics and competencies required for this position are:

- Ability to critically assess challenges and identify flexible, effective solutions in ambiguous situations.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a range of stakeholders and across organizations.
- Proven ability to overcome barriers and to establish and sustain constructive working relationships with fellow staff members and external partners.
- Excellent project management skills, the ability to work independently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment and success with managing multiple responsibilities simultaneously.

COMPENSATION

CASEL seeks to maintain compensation packages competitive within the nonprofit and education sectors, commensurate with experience.

TO APPLY

Please email a **thoughtful cover letter and resume** outlining how your skills and experience meet the qualifications of the position and stating how you heard about this opportunity to careers@casel.org. Please include the position title in the subject line of your email message. We regret that we will not be able to respond to phone inquiries about this position.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning is an equal opportunity employer. CASEL evaluates applicants for employment on the basis of qualifications, merit and work-related criteria without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical disabilities, pregnancy, medical condition, marital status or any other characteristic protected by law. CASEL employs and values a diverse work environment.