

While you  
are getting  
logged in...

- Take a minute and think about the following questions:
  - Tell me about your favorite food and/or retail establishment.
  - Why do you like spending your time and money there?
  - What makes you feel welcome when dining and/or shopping there?

# National Excel Center Conference

Building Connection through Engagement



# Let's make some new friends

- Find five people you don't know or don't know well
  - You may use the chat to get this activity done
- Find one like and one dislike you have in common
- When you come back, be ready to share something you learned from one of your conversations
- You have 4 minutes... ready, set, go!!

# How did it go? Why?

- What made you feel you made a connection with someone during your activity? (Circle back to your thoughts on feeling welcome.)
- Why?
- How could you implement this into an orientation or a classroom activity?
- How could a simple activity like this help students feel connected or not feel connected?
- What adjustments would you make for students who have a difficult time with social learning activities?

# SEL skills in use

1. How to meet new people
2. Creating first impressions
3. Building rapport with others
4. Cultivating curiosity
5. Developing empathy

## SEL Building Blocks - Unpacked

(Why are self-awareness and self management important?)



# Build.



# On your mark, get set, ?????

To play, you will need:

- Two pieces of paper
- Something to write with
- Room to move

Our moderator, Corenn, will put you into break rooms for the activity

Each activity will last for 60 seconds.

You will see which activity you EXCEL in.

# Listen closely...

- Aardvark  
Rabbit
- Crocodile  
Starfish
- Dinosaur
- Elephant
- Frog
- Gorilla
- High knees

Bat

Kangaroo

Jumping Jack

Moonwalk

Lion

Owl

Penguin



# Write quickly

- Aardvark  
Rabbit
- Crocodile  
Starfish
- Dinosaur
- Elephant
- Frog
- Gorilla
- High knees

Bat

Kangaroo

Jumping Jack

Moonwalk

Lion

Owl

Penguin

# Act Fast...

- Aardvark
- Crocodile
- Dinosaur
- Elephant
- Frog
- Gorilla
- High knees

Bat

Kangaroo

Jumping Jack

Moonwalk

Lion

Owl

Penguin

Rabbit

Starfish

# Questions to go

- Which activity was easier for you?
- Which activity was harder for you?
- How would an activity like this help **create connection** in your classroom or learning environment?
- Why does **reframing learning** help students feel more engaged?

## SEL skills in use

1. Active listening
2. Effective collaboration
3. Growth mindset
4. Focus
5. Power of thought

# SEL Building Blocks - Unpacked

(Why are self-awareness and self management important?)



# Connect.



## Around the table

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- In our final activity, you will share your experiences for the following question
- Describe the best breakfast you have ever eaten?

You will have to **listen** to 3 other people **share** their choice.

Come to an **agreement** on which breakfast your entire group would have and announce it to the class.

You will have 5 minutes to listen and come to **consensus**

# Food for thought...

- How could using common language build connection among diverse learners?
- What impact would shared experience have in creating engagement?
- Why does sharing experiences among team members build a stronger and more engaged culture?

# SEL skills in use

1. Appreciating diversity
2. Developing positive relationships
3. Problem solving
4. Empathy
5. Teamwork
6. Responding to feedback
7. Negotiating an agreement

## SEL Building Blocks - Unpacked

(Why are self-awareness and self management important?)



Adapted from School Connect Social and Emotional curriculum

# Should I stay or should I go?

- Did you know that students are asking themselves this question every time they fill out an application or entering the classroom; “Should I stay or should I go?”
  - The feeling of impostership coupled with pressure from, at times the ones they need support from the most, creates a constant struggle within students.
  - In a small group interview with student leaders, students said:
    - Pressure from competing priorities is an immediate dilemma
    - Family pressure is a substantial concern for students.

# Engage.



# Questions to go...

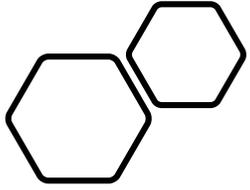
- Think about a new student starting at your school, on the first day where could connection points make a difference?
- What are your processes and procedures saying to students as they move through their academic experience?

## **Whose voice is louder? Yours or theirs?**

- Do they reinforce the messages that replay in their head? Or do they slowly replace them?

Now.





# Where do we go from here?



How could you create a space to make more friends?



What ways could we make learning fun for every one?



Why does recognizing our differences and what makes us unique create a more connected and engaged community?