



Funding Whole-Child Support in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is prioritizing whole-child education through grants that strengthen MTSS, SEL, behavioral health, and safe, supportive learning environments. These state initiatives focus on building sustainable, equitable systems that address the diverse needs of students, families, and educators. [Sown To Grow](#) aligns directly with these priorities, offering a SEL and student voice platform that provides real-time reflections, check-ins, and data dashboards to help schools proactively identify needs, strengthen belonging, and deliver culturally responsive supports. Explore the grant opportunities below to see how Massachusetts schools and districts can leverage funding—and how Sown To Grow can be your partner in advancing SEL, student well-being, and overall success.



Grant Opportunities in Massachusetts

- 1 SEL & Mental Health Grant
- 2 Rethinking Discipline Initiative
- 3 Safe & Supportive Schools Grant

A Guide to Federal Funding:

In addition to State funding, multiple federal funding opportunities are available that can help strengthen student support. Access our guide for a breakdown of key federal grants and see how Sown To Grow aligns to each program's priorities.



Download the Federal
Funding Guide

To learn more about how we can support your grant strategy and student support initiatives, contact us at grants@sowntogrow.com or schedule a meeting [here](#).



SEL & Mental Health Initiative

Grant Overview

The Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Wellness (SEL & Mental Health) Competitive Grant provides Massachusetts public school districts, charter schools, and educational collaboratives with funding to expand and strengthen multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) that address students' social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs. This grant supports culturally responsive SEL practices, evidence-based interventions, and sustainable partnerships with community-based providers to create comprehensive systems of care.



Funding

Up to \$150k/applicant



Duration

1 Year



Eligibility

All public school districts & charters

5 Key Priorities

Sown To Grow Alignment

Culturally Responsive SEL

- ✓ **Student-centered & inclusive** – Personalized reflections, lessons, & discussions elevate every learner's identity & voice.
- ✓ **Diverse & equity-focused** – Curriculum & PD are designed by a diverse team & reviewed through a trauma-informed lens.
- ✓ **Customizable Design** – Lessons & materials can be adapted to reflect unique student experiences and needs.

Universal Mental Health & SEL Screening

- ✓ **Summative + Formative Assessment** - Integrates weekly reflections & check-ins with periodic CASEL-aligned SEL assessments to give a real-time view of student growth & well-being.

Evidence-based interventions & Supports

- ✓ **Research-backed SEL & supports** – Combines CASEL- & ASCA-aligned lessons, check-ins & targeted interventions that are proven to strengthen student social-emotional growth & well-being.

Data-driven systems

- ✓ **Real-Time, Actionable Insights** - Differentiated dashboards & reports turn student data into actionable guidance for teachers, counselors, and school leaders.

Sustainable Systems & Partnerships

- ✓ **Sustainable MTSS** – Real-time student insights help schools identify needs early, target supports effectively, & make data-driven decisions that keep MTSS systems responsive.


Access additional information about this grant [here](#).



Rethinking Discipline Initiative

Grant Overview

The Rethinking Discipline Initiative competitive grant provides Massachusetts districts and schools with funding to reduce exclusionary discipline practices and strengthen equitable, supportive school environments. This grant supports the development and implementation of action plans that promote positive school climate, foster student belonging, and reduce disparities in discipline outcomes.

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|  Funding
Up to \$75k /Applicant |  Duration
1 Year |  Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts identified in previous Cohorts - Districts with a need index of 80+ AND that have disproportionate suspension rates |
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2 Key Priorities Sown To Grow Alignment

Priority 1

Create a school climate & culture that embodies an equitable, **safe, positive, healthy, culturally -sustaining, & inclusive whole-school learning environment** for all students; & which supports students' academic & social emotional wellbeing.

- ✓ **Inclusive Design** – Developed by a diverse team with expertise in culturally responsive, inclusive practices.
- ✓ **Sense of Belonging Focus** – K-12 lessons where students co-create norms that celebrate differences & value all voices. Collaborative lessons build skills in respect, empathy, & constructive conflict resolution.
- ✓ **Personalized Support** – Weekly Tier 1 student reflections paired with teacher responses ensure every learner is heard and supported. These touchpoints foster connection and lay the groundwork for a supportive classroom environment.

Priority 2

Reduce suspensions & expulsions for all students, & disparate use of exclusionary practices seen frequently for students with disabilities & students by race/ethnicity

- ✓ **Proactive Intervention** - Through weekly reflections, educators gain timely visibility into student needs, allowing interventions before challenges escalate into more serious behavioral concerns. This reduces reliance on exclusionary discipline practices.
- ✓ **Student Voice-Driven Data** – Reflection data gives schools insight into the “why” behind student behaviors. Leaders can review this information when considering disciplinary actions to understand student circumstances, address root causes, & ensure decisions are guided by student experiences rather than adult assumptions.

Access additional information about this grant [here](#).



Safe & Supportive Schools

Grant Overview

The Safe and Supportive Schools Competitive Grant provides Massachusetts public schools with funding to organize, integrate, and sustain school- & district-wide efforts aimed at creating safe and supportive school environments. The grant includes both planning and implementation funding, enabling schools to first assess needs and develop action plans using the [Safe and Supportive Schools \(SaSS\) Framework](#), and then implement strategies that foster positive school climates & promote student well-being.

 Funding Up to \$10k / Applicant	 Duration 1 year with option for 1 year continuation grant	 Eligibility All public school districts. Priority is given to schools eligible for the Rethinking Discipline Initiative.
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6 Key Levers

Sown To Grow Alignment

Leadership to support school climate & culture

- ✓ **Admin Dashboards** - Track student well-being trends weekly to identify needs & proactively strengthen school climate & culture.
- ✓ **Customized PD & Data Reviews** - Tailored sessions that guide leaders in implementation & strategies to improve school culture.

Family Engagement

- ✓ **Caregiver Resources** - Available for every grade level in English & Spanish to support continued SEL development at home.

PD aligned to community needs

- ✓ **PD & Toolkits** - Focused on training educators on how to strengthen classroom culture & respond to student needs
- ✓ **Adult SEL** - SEL training series, and emotional check-ins to support adult well-being.

Access to Services & Resources

- ✓ Community partners can be given **school insights access to support integrated services**, at the school leader's discretion.

Teaching & Learning for Safe & Supportive Environments

- ✓ **Focus on Belonging** - A foundation of belonging affirms each student's identity and fosters inclusive, supportive classrooms.
- ✓ **Relationships-Centered** - Weekly reflections give students a voice & teachers a chance to respond, strengthening connection.

Student-centered Policies & Procedures

- ✓ **Centered on Student Voice** - Approach focuses on uplifting student voices & providing insights so that students can be taught and treated with respect as individuals.

Access additional information about this grant [here](#).



Funding Sown To Grow: A Grant-Planning Toolkit

When applying for grants to support student well-being and social-emotional skill development, districts are often asked to include detailed information about the program. To simplify this process, we've compiled sample talking points and resources to help you get started on a proposal for adopting Sown To Grow.

Click Each Link Below for Additional Details!

Weekly Emotional Check-In & Reflection

How are you feeling?



Tell me about your week

I'm stressed with all my school work. I don't know what to do.

Sown to Grow's approach centers on a core practice of student reflection and teacher response. This weekly routine builds trust, strengthens connections, and cultivates a school environment where students feel a genuine **sense of belonging**. Data dashboards allow students, teachers, and administrators to track emotions and experiences over time, guiding **data-driven decisions that elevate student voice** and ensure support is timely, meaningful, and personalized.

SEL Curriculum



6 Units Aligned to
CASEL SEL Competencies



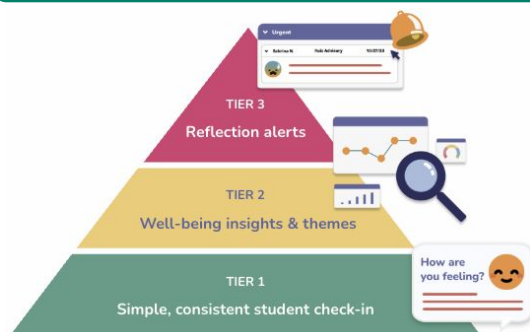
40 Lessons Per Grade
Level, Spanning K-12



Integrated with STG
Student Check-In and
Reflection Protocol

Sown to Grow offers a differentiated **K-12 curriculum and assessment platform fully aligned with CASEL competencies**, which are supported by the State of Massachusetts. The curriculum also includes a unit on **Sense of Belonging** to foster equity and inclusion. **Pre- and post-assessments** track student growth over time and generate valuable data insights that can inform needs assessments. View the full scope and sequence, including sample lessons through the link above.

MTSS



Massachusetts' MTSS framework emphasizes SEL as an essential foundation for effective support. Sown To Grow directly supports this model by elevating student voice through reflections and check-ins, while providing educators with real-time SEL insights. This strengthens Tier 1 practices, flags students needing additional support, and drives equitable, data-informed decisions across all tiers.

Funding Sown To Grow: A Grant-Planning Toolkit (cont.)



Tier 2 MTSS Lessons & Resources

Using Tier 2 Lessons



Use the STG to help inform the creation of small groups.



Provide targeted support for your students.



Build a stronger sense of connection & wellbeing in small groups.

Sown To Grow's technology analyzes student input to identify those who may need Tier 2 support, based on themes such as social anxiety, academic stress, persistent sadness or grief, external challenges, or low sense of belonging. The platform then provides Tier 2 extension activities that support **restorative practices** and **targeted skill-building** based on individual needs. All lessons and activities are grade-level differentiated, **CASEL-aligned**, and developed in partnership with licensed school social workers and practitioners.

Research & Impact



Sown To Grow has deep support from research organizations that have funded and vetted the company's approach, pedagogy, and technology. Our work is funded by the **U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, Digital Promise, and New Schools Venture Fund**. Independent researchers at Stanford, UCLA, UC Berkeley, WestEd, and LeanLab Education have conducted research that validates the feasibility and **positive impact of our program on student relationships, attendance, school culture, and academic outcomes**.