

MOOSES: A framework for categorizing SEL Measures

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Background

- ❑ Social and emotional learning has been identified as a priority in the education space.
- ❑ While much research has been done on effective SEL programs (CASEL, 2015; Corcoran, Cheung, Kim, & Xie, 2018), less is known about **effective SEL measurement**, which is essential for program evaluation.
- ❑ The purpose of this presentation is to present a framework for categorizing SEL measures: MOOSES.



Types of SEL measurement

□ Common types of SEL measures (World Learning, 2018):



Written or oral assessments such as knowledge-based, psychometric assessment of personality or attitude, and scenario-based measures.



Observations



Project-based

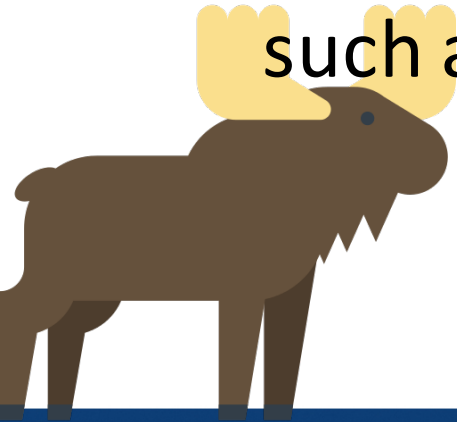
□ Little guidance on which types of measures are least prone to bias

Types of biases

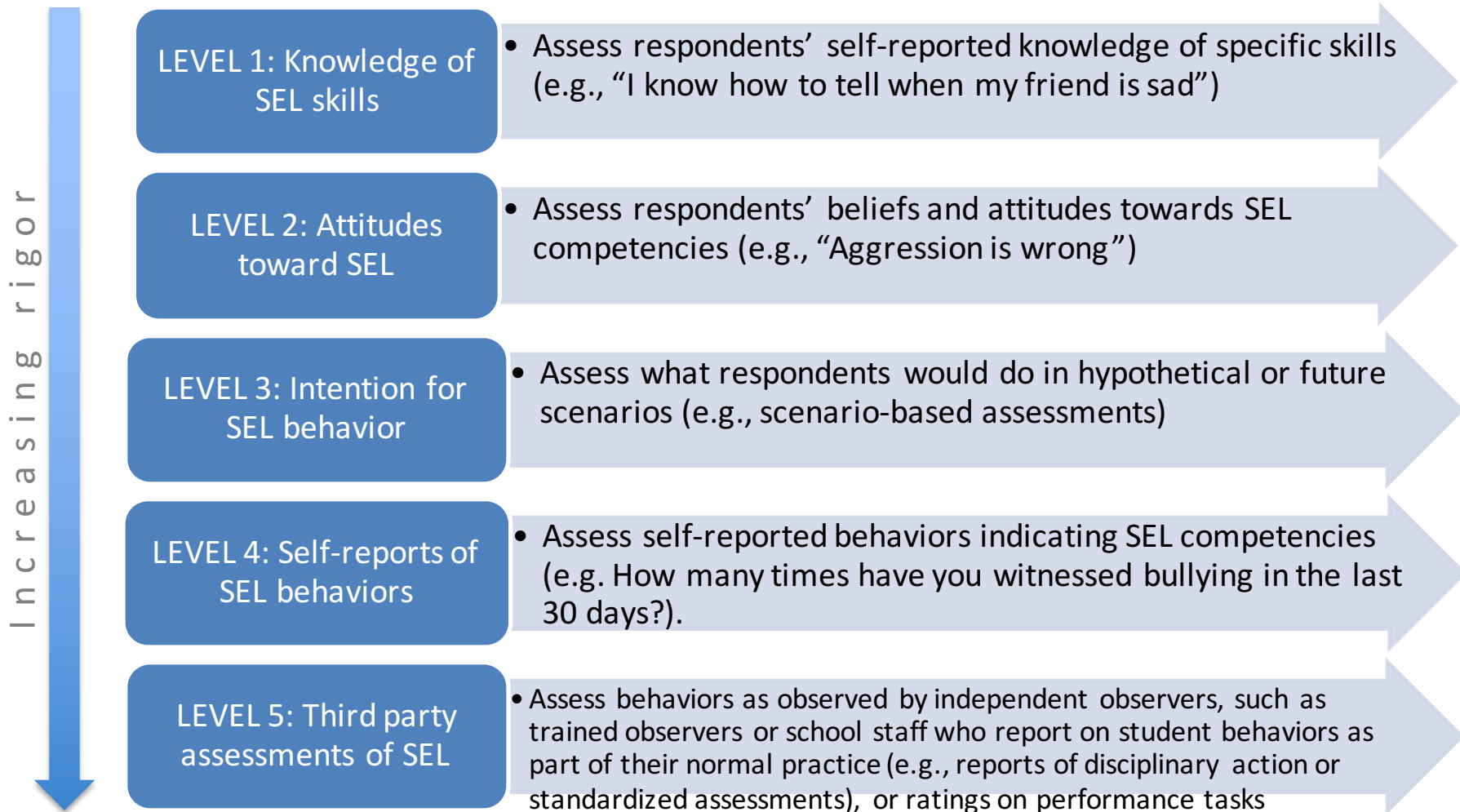
- ❑ Not all measures are created equal
- ❑ Self reported questionnaires, which are most common SEL measures, are prone to:
 - heterogeneous frames of reference
 - social desirability bias
 - acquiescence bias
 - overalignment with treatment – “parroting”

MOOSES

MOOSES framework categorizes types of measures that are **meaningful to measure** in school settings based on how closely they are **meaningful, observable, and objective** social emotional skills that are **least prone to biases** such as parroting or social desirability.



MOOSES levels



Real examples of measures

5

Behavioral Observation of Students in Schools (BOSS)—
observation of students' engaged or off-task behaviors in real time

Social Skills Rating System –
“This child shares food or toys with others”

4

3

Student Experiences Survey –
“If my friends were telling lies about another kid, I would tell them to stop”

Caveats

- ❑ Bias can exist at any level of measurement
- ❑ Obvious tradeoffs between more rigorous methods of measurement and the time and resources required
- ❑ MOOSES is a **framework** for evaluating SEL measures for potential biases, not a rigid categorization of measures
- ❑ Design/intent of measurement matters as much as mode of measurement

Practical Application

- Practitioners and researchers should consider the potential biases when choosing an SEL measure
- In order to make program monitoring and evaluation meaningful, need an approach to carefully assess and select appropriate SEL measures.
- The MOOSES framework recommends using **meaningful, observable, and objective** measures wherever possible



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