

Addressing School Violence in Ontario

School violence remains a pressing concern in Ontario, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on student mental health and behaviour. The integration of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) within Ontario's education system, inspired by the principles of emotional intelligence, shows promise in addressing these challenges.

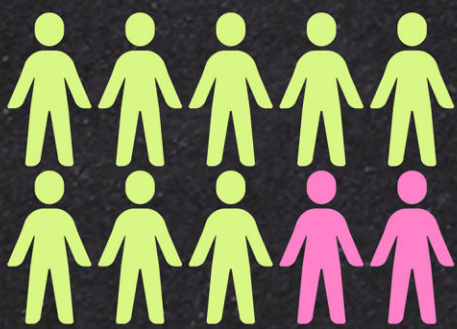
Rising School Violence

Teachers are reporting a rise in school violence



80%

Report that the number of violent incidents has increased in 2023



80%

Report that violence is a growing problem



70%

Report that the severity of violence has increased

*Adapted from ETFO All-Member Violence Survey results (2023)

Where is the Data?

Ontario's reporting mechanisms fail to deliver accurate data on school violence

Cannot Analyze Trends

Harms Intervention Strategies



Cannot identify at-risk schools

How Does School Violence Affect Students?

School Violence Negatively Affects Students':

- Mental Health
- Academic Performance
- Healthy Development
- Physical Wellbeing



School Violence Increases Risks of:

- Youth Delinquency
- Sexual Victimization



How SEL Can Reduce School Violence

SEL Programs

Lower Aggression & Hostility

Improved Socioemotional Skills

Reduction of School Violence

What's SEL?

SEL Teaches Students Core Skills that Improve Their Social and Emotional Skills

Skills Learned Through SEL:

- Self Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision-Making

Recommendations

- Longitudinal study to assess long-term effectiveness of SEL
- Expand SEL to high schools to address unique challenges of adolescents
- Create a comprehensive SEL program that teaches competencies across all grade levels
- Create better mechanisms for reporting school violence to improve future analyses

References

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