

A Quick Guide to

# The SEL Program Quality Assessment (SEL PQA)

## What is the SEL PQA

The SEL PQA is a framework with researched-identified best practices that support environments to be safe, supportive, interactive, and engaging with a focus on practices that support social and emotional learning.

## Assessments

**Self Assessment** (or Internal Assessment) happens within your staff team either through reflection conversations or observation of each other and reflection on the scores.

**External Assessments** happens with someone outside of your organization who is a trained reliable rater, observes your program and provides you back the data for your team to use in reflection.

## Uses

The SEL PQA can be used both as a planning tool, and as a measurement towards those best practices through self assessment or external assessment.

## YPQI/ CPI/ CQI

The SEL PQA is part of a larger cycle of improvement. It may be referred to as Continuous Program Improvement or Continuous Quality Improvement. Either way, it involves Assessing, Planning, and Improvement.

## Low Stakes!

The SEL PQA is focused on reflection and improvement, and not for saying whether a program is "good" or "bad".

Supporting Plans & Goals  
Supporting Youth Interests  
Furthering Learning

ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT

Cultivating Empathy  
Promoting Responsibility & Leadership  
Fostering Teamwork

INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Fostering Growth Mindset  
Scaffolding Learning  
Emotion Coaching

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Creating Safe Spaces

SAFE SPACE

4 Domains  
10 Scales  
41 Items

**SPROCKETS**

To learn more, visit [www.forumfyi.org/weikartcenter/ypqi](http://www.forumfyi.org/weikartcenter/ypqi)

# Reflection Worksheet

- What is a scale in the SEL PQA that you feel confident in and include in your program already? What does it look like? Sound like?
- Check out a copy of the SEL PQA. When you look at the descriptions of the items, where does your practice currently fall?
- What is a scale you are interested in exploring?
- Who from your team can you talk with about what these aspects look like in their work or can share with you how they use the SEL PQA as a framework or assessment?
- When will you follow up with that person?

If you don't have a copy of the SEL PQA, you can download one at <https://forumfyi.org/weikartcenter/assessments/>



Quality Youth  
Work Starts  
HERE!