

NEWS RELEASE

Ebinport Elementary School
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ebinport Elementary SIC Spearheads Social and Emotional (SEL) Learning Pilot

Rock Hill, SC – The School Improvement Council (SIC) at Ebinport Elementary (Rock Hill School District 3) has made focusing on its students' social and emotional skills a 2015 priority. The SIC's decision to focus on social and emotional learning (SEL) was prompted by a [seminal study](#) of SEL which found that, in addition to significantly improving students' attitudes and behavior, schools that implement high quality SEL programs demonstrate an average 11-percentile-point gain in academic achievement.

Ebinport is currently piloting a program that allows teachers to measure students' social and emotional skills using a strengths-based assessment that helps them not only identify areas of strength, but also pinpoint areas in need of further instruction. The program also provides strategies that the pilot teachers will use in their classroom or can send home for individual skill-building.

Kelly Scott, SIC Chair at Ebinport states: "We couldn't be more proud of the way our principal, Rhonda Kelsey, and our pilot teachers have embraced the opportunity to learn more about our students' needs. All teachers know that these (SEL) skills are as critical to life success as academic skills. Now our teachers have a way to measure them and have a data-driven way to identify what type of SEL enrichment opportunities to provide."

Teachers and the school's guidance professional, Lou Ellen Holliday, collaborate around the SEL data to identify small group lessons that will bolster SEL skills as well.

For more information on this initiative, please contact Ebinport SIC member Jessica Adamson at Jessica.adamson@apperson.com, Ebinport Principal, Rhonda Kelsey, at rkelsey@rhmail.org or SIC Chair, Kelly Scott, at scottks@winthrop.edu.

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