

How do you measure the value of school-based social and emotional learning (SEL) programs? In England, it's by the pound.

The UK Department of Health commissioned a study to measure the economic impact of 15 effective mental health intervention programs. According to its findings, SEL programs produced the highest financial return on investment of all programs evaluated.

The returns are substantial

The 2011 study¹ found that school-based social and emotional learning (SEL) programs:

- Return £83 in long-term savings for every £1 spent.
- Return £48.30 in 5 years for every £1 spent.
- Return just under £1 for every £1 spent, which means that SEL programs pay for themselves in just over a year.

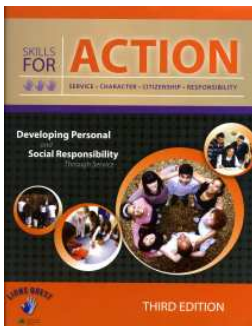
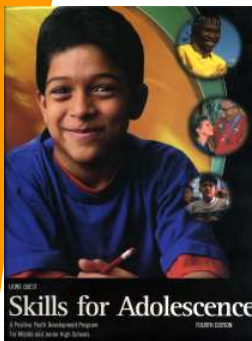
These returns don't reflect the most significant payoff of SEL programs—*quality of life* for the young people who benefit from them. But it's not just young people who benefit from SEL.

Society benefits from SEL

The greatest beneficiary is society as a whole, which receives £57.29 of the £83 in long-term benefits. Quality SEL programs consistently reduce conduct problems associated with criminal activity, substance abuse, and mental health issues, which have significant economic impacts on society—and devastating impacts on families.

The United States is paying the price for poor mental health

The annual cost of treatment, lost productivity, and crime for mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in young people is estimated at \$247 billion in the United States.² This doesn't include additional expenses incurred by family members, the community, and multiple service sectors. Proven-effective SEL programs like **Lions Quest** can help decrease negative conduct and increase positive, healthy behavior, which pays dividends for a lifetime.



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Lions Quest K-12 programs are rated “Select SEL” by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning.

¹ Knapp, M., McDavid, D., & Parsonage, M. (Eds.). (2011). Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: The economic case. London: Department of Health.

² O'Connell, M.E., Boat, T., & Warner, K. (Eds.). (2009). Preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among young people: Progress and possibilities. National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.