

BLUEPRINTS FOR TOMORROW

Designing The Next Era Of Learning



2025 SEL EXCHANGE SUBMISSIONS RUBRIC

Submissions are reviewed by researchers, policy leaders, and practitioners from CASEL and external organizations using the criteria outlined in this rubric.

ELEMENT (POINTS)	Title 5 Points	<i>Written as it would appear in the conference program.</i>
WEAK	1 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vague, uninviting.
	2	
MODERATE	3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly indicates a topic. Uses interesting language to engage the reader.
	4	
EXEMPLARY	5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding use of language to identify content/topic and to 'hook' the prospective registrant.

ELEMENT (POINTS)	Description 15 Points	<i>A two- to three-sentence "elevator pitch" written as it would appear in the conference program. Clearly describes what the session will cover, how participants will be engaged, and what they can expect to learn.</i>
WEAK	3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer than three sentences. Does not clearly describe content and participant expectations.
	6	
MODERATE	9 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes an enticing two- or three-sentence description. Clearly captures what the session will cover and what participants can expect to learn.
	12	
EXEMPLARY	15 points	<p>Meets level 3 criteria, in a way that also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes how participants will be engaged. Uses language that is intriguing, compelling, and includes evidence of impact. Shows relevance in two or more conference domains (engagement & outreach, policy, practice, research).

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	Conference Alignment 15 Points	<i>Describe how your proposal aligns with the conference theme, Blueprints for Tomorrow: Designing the Next Era of Learning, and key messages (1) "SEL supports the development of students who are equipped for the new opportunities and challenges of tomorrow's workplace and world" and/or (2) "SEL is grounded in science."</i>
WEAK	3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address the conference theme and key messages in a way that seems likely to contribute to research, practice, or policy. Fails to demonstrate how SEL prepares students for the future workplace or broader societal challenges. Lacks reference to scientific research supporting SEL.
	6	
MODERATE	9 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses the conference theme and key messages in a way that could contribute to research, practice, or policy. Briefly touches on the science behind SEL. Could prepare students for future challenges, but lacks depth or a comprehensive application of these ideas.
	12	
EXEMPLARY	15 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly addresses the conference theme and key messages in significant ways that will contribute to research, practice, and/or policy. Incorporates solid, evidence-based research, specifically noting how SEL prepares students for the future and is grounded in scientific theory.

ELEMENT (POINTS)	Participant Objectives 15 Points	<i>List two to four intended objectives that describe what participants will know and be able to do as a result of your session, and how they might apply that knowledge to their own work.</i>
WEAK	3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intended objectives are not stated, cannot be inferred, and/or do not seem likely to be achievable.
	6	
MODERATE	9 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives are written in language that is easily understood. Objectives clearly indicate specific examples of what participants will learn and be able to do.
	12	
EXEMPLARY	15 points	<p>In addition to meeting level 3, objectives also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a high likelihood of being achieved given the format. Indicate the session will prepare participants to make connections to their own work and identify their own "next steps."

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	75-minute Breakout Session Details 50 Points	<i>Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposed session. By addressing these areas, your proposal will provide a clear and compelling picture of the session's value and relevance. (NOTE: These sessions cannot contain promotion of for-purchase products.)</i>
WEAK	10 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is not described clearly enough to verify session quality. • Does not include evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research. (Please include citations as relevant.) • No actionable next steps were shared or identified. <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator agenda is broad and general. • Does not include specific timing or timing appears unrealistic. • Does not include an engagement strategy.
MODERATE	20 30 points	<p>20</p> <p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear indication of relevant information. • Practical application and/or strategies that are replicable or adaptable to one's own context without purchases or products. • Explicit connections are made to SEL competencies. • Includes evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research. (Please include citations as relevant.) • Some actionable next steps were shared, but they could be more specific or detailed. <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator agenda clearly indicates engaging, participatory design. • Incorporates and models best practices for social and emotional professional learning, including modeling inclusivity and equity.
EXEMPLARY	40 50 points	<p>40</p> <p>Session Content</p> <p>Meets level 3 criteria in a way that also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is innovative, incorporates new ideas, perspectives, strategies, or approaches. • Supports equitable outcomes. • Addresses implications for student and adult learners. • Includes evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research and draws meaningful connections between research/ best practices and the content of their session. • Clear, specific, and actionable next steps were provided. <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <p>Meets level 3 criteria, in a way that also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly indicates skillful planning that includes an itemized agenda with realistic timing. • Incorporates a high level of engagement using multiple strategies that balance information, interaction and reflection, in inclusive and equitable ways. • Dedicates time for participants to contextualize content to their own work.

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	7-minute PechaKucha Session Details 50 Points	<i>Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposed session. By addressing these areas, your proposal will provide a clear and compelling picture of the session's value and relevance. (NOTE: These sessions cannot contain promotion of for-purchase products.)</i>
WEAK	10 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not describe a full story arc. • Is not written in first person. • Content is not described clearly enough to verify session quality. • Does not include evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research. (Please include citations as relevant.) <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator agenda is broad and general. • Does not include specific timing or timing appears unrealistic.
MODERATE	20 30 points	<p>20</p> <p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description includes a story arc (beginning, middle, end). • Is written in first person. • Clear indication of relevant information. • Practical application and/or strategies that are replicable or adaptable to one's own context without purchases or products. • Explicit connections are made to SEL competencies. • Includes evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research. (Please include citations as relevant.) <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly indicates engaging design that incorporates an interesting story arc. • Has timing and/or content appears unrealistic for the format.
EXEMPLARY	40 50 points	<p>40</p> <p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly based on a personal story with a beginning, middle, and end. • Describes the "small" (single-focus, do-able) story from their work that had a big impact. • Is innovative, incorporates new ideas, perspectives, strategies, or approaches. • Supports equitable outcomes. • Addresses implications for student and adult learners. • Includes evidence of effectiveness (qualitative and/or quantitative) or alignment with evidence-based practices or research and draws meaningful connections between research/ best practices and the content of their session. <p>Session Outline and Timing</p> <p>Meets level 3 criteria, in a way that also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter outline clearly indicates skillful planning that focuses on one big idea. • Timing indicates intentional balance of beginning, middle, and end. • Provides practical ideas and information that participants could contextualize to their own work.

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	15-minute Research Paper Session Details 50 Points	Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposed session. By addressing these areas, your proposal will provide a clear and compelling picture of the session's value and relevance. (NOTE: These sessions cannot contain promotion of for-purchase products.)
WEAK	10 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not current, original, or groundbreaking. • Does not mention a framework, theory, or previous research in ways that relate to the presentation content. • Methods are not well-defined (e.g., do not include the sample, measures, data collection methods or analysis plan), not appropriate, or not sufficiently rigorous. • Draws unsubstantiated conclusions or makes unsupported claims or recommendations.
	20	
MODERATE	30 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and fairly original, if not groundbreaking. • Mentions a framework and refers to relevant theory or previous research in ways that demonstrate knowledge and provide some justification for the presentation content. • Methods, analyses/analysis plan, and results/hypothesized results are described, moderately appropriate, and rigorous. • Suggests that at least indirect support for conclusions and/or recommendations can be provided, based on a reasonably well-designed investigation/project.
	40	
EXEMPLARY	50 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is innovative, incorporates new ideas, perspectives, strategies, or approaches • Clearly defines a framework and discusses state-of-the-art theory, or previous research in ways that demonstrate in-depth knowledge and provide direct justification for the presentation content • Methods to conduct the research are appropriate and rigorous, and include how data was collected, sample, measures, analyses/analytic plan, and results/hypothesized results. • Indicates that ample support for well-substantiated conclusions and recommendations will be provided based on a rigorously designed investigation/project.

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	Research Poster Presentation Session Details 50 Points	Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposed session. By addressing these areas, your proposal will provide a clear and compelling picture of the session's value and relevance. (NOTE: These sessions cannot contain promotion of for-purchase products.)
WEAK	10 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not current, original, or groundbreaking. • Does not mention a framework, theory, or previous research in ways that relate to the presentation content. • Methods are not well-defined (e.g., do not include the sample, measures, data collection methods or analysis plan), not appropriate, or not sufficiently rigorous. • Draws unsubstantiated conclusions or makes unsupported claims or recommendations.
	20	
MODERATE	30 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and fairly original, if not groundbreaking. • Mentions a framework and refers to relevant theory or previous research in ways that demonstrate knowledge and provide some justification for the presentation content. • Methods, analyses/analysis plan, and results/hypothesized results are described, moderately appropriate, and rigorous. • Suggests that at least indirect support for conclusions and/or recommendations can be provided, based on a reasonably well-designed investigation/project.
	40	
EXEMPLARY	50 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is innovative, incorporates new ideas, perspectives, strategies, or approaches. • Clearly defines a framework and discusses state-of-the-art theory, or previous research in ways that demonstrate in-depth knowledge and provide direct justification for the presentation content. • Methods to conduct the research are appropriate and rigorous, and include how data was collected, sample, measures, analyses/analytic plan, and results/hypothesized results. • Indicates that ample support for well-substantiated conclusions and recommendations will be provided based on a rigorously designed investigation/project.

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ELEMENT (POINTS)	Practice/ Policy Poster Presentation Session Details 50 Points	Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposed session. By addressing these areas, your proposal will provide a clear and compelling picture of the session's value and relevance. (NOTE: These sessions cannot contain promotion of for-purchase products.)
WEAK	10 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vague or missing context and rationale. • Missing essential details about the implementation of the practice and/or policy, with no information provided on its impact. • No evaluation or outcomes provided. • No practical applications or insights shared. • No connection to conference theme or SEL competencies.
	20	
MODERATE	30 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives an overview of the context and rationale, but lacks depth. • Adequate detail on the implementation of the practice and/or policy, though some aspects may be unclear or the impact may not be fully communicated. • Basic evaluation with limited data or feedback. • Some practical applications and insights, but lacks depth. • Limited connection to conference theme or SEL competencies, but not fully developed.
	40	
EXEMPLARY	50 points	<p>Session Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough and well-defined explanation of context and rationale. • A comprehensive and clear explanation of the implementation details of the practice and/or policy, along with its impact. • Detailed evaluation supported by data and clear outcomes. • Clear applications, meaningful insights, and equity/inclusivity addressed. • Clear, well-developed connection to SEL competencies. • Clear connection to conference theme.

CASEL reserves the right to change programming at any time, for any reason.

CASEL may cancel, at any point, sessions submitted by facilitators or presenters who are unable to attend.