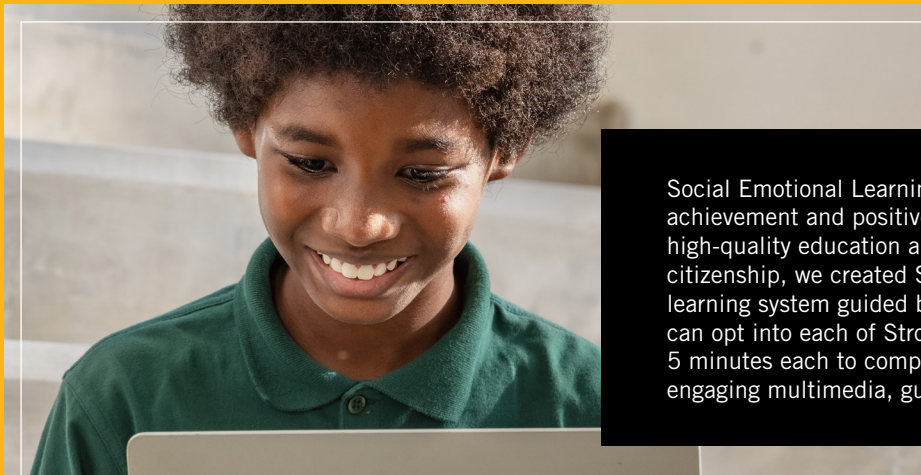


# Early Results Show Higher Achievement and More Engagement with Students Using StrongMinded SEL



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) plays a critical role in increasing academic achievement and positive behaviors. As part of our commitment to providing high-quality education and fully preparing students for college, career, and citizenship, we created StrongMinded, a supplementary social emotional learning system guided by decades of research. Teachers can assign or students can opt into each of StrongMinded's 300+ content modules which take about 5 minutes each to complete and includes SEL vocabulary, direct instruction, engaging multimedia, guided practice, and an application exercise.

## THE STUDY

The StrongMinded program was implemented by a public school at the beginning of January 2021. The school, which is accredited by Cognia and NCAA, offers 100% online courses to approximately 20,000 K-12 students each year. We evaluated the impact of participation in StrongMinded on students' academic performance and academic engagement by analyzing semester GPA and percentage of course requirements completed respectively. This study included over 6,000 students in grades 6 – 12 who were enrolled in the school throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

### GPA % Increase for Students Using StrongMinded

+8.46%

3+ SEL Modules

+3.1%

0-2 SEL Modules

## FINDINGS

We found that students engaging with three or more SEL modules – or at least 15 total minutes of SEL instruction – outperformed students engaging with zero to two modules – or less than 10 total minutes. In general, the average semester GPA and percentage of course requirements completed increased between fall 2020 and spring 2021. However, students engaging with three or more StrongMinded modules had statistically greater gains in both areas than their counterparts. Students in the treatment group achieved an average GPA increase of .19 as compared to an average GPA increase of .05 by the control group.

## CONCLUSION

Results from this initial evaluation indicate that the SEL program significantly impacted student outcomes, resulting in quantifiable positive effects on academic performance and engagement. Data shows that from fall 2020 to spring 2021 students engaging with three or more StrongMinded SEL learning modules outperformed their peers, with significantly higher gains than their counterparts in academic performance (as measured by GPA) and academic engagement (as measured by percentage of course requirements completed).

### Engagement % Increase for Students Using StrongMinded

1.09%

0-2 SEL Modules

+3.1%

3+ SEL Modules