



ALAQQUEST

COLLABORATIVE for EDUCATION

Making Social & Emotional Learning an integral part of education in Alabama.



ACE

2018
IMPACT REPORT

www.acealabama.org

A message from our Executive Director



I am so honored to share in this work with you.

Our efforts to support positive mental health in schools could not be more important at a time when communities are drenched in divisiveness and suicide and homicide are among the leading causes of death for school-aged youth.

We founded ACE in 2015, in response to the murder of my little brother, Joshua. He was killed at age 22, along with two of his friends, during the robbery of our home. Over the past three years, we have channeled the complicated energy surrounding his death and turned it into productive, positive action that has directly impacted over 4,500 students, teachers, and community members to date.

We know that social and emotional learning initiatives have a positive impact on a person's ability to understand and manage their emotions, get along effectively with others, and recognize the consequences of their actions. These social and emotional skills should not be considered an optional "add-on" to the way we educate but must be recognized as the foundation upon which all other learning and success is built.

It is imperative that we recognize the value of supporting social and emotional education if we want to see a reduction of violence in our communities.

I hope that the content of this report leaves you inspired to join the effort to build a self-sustainable culture of peace, productivity, and prosperity. It is amazing what we have been able to accomplish with a shoestring budget and a dedicated army of volunteers. If you have already joined the team, I cannot thank you enough for the gifts you are giving in time, knowledge, and treasure. It is because of you that we have come so far, so fast.

If you have not yet joined us, please reach out. Give me a call. Shoot me an email. I would love to meet with you to chat about how we can work together to make a difference.

Much love and gratitude,

Matthew Smith
(205) 370-8876
msmith@alaquest.net

None of this work is possible without the collaboration of our community partners.

- Children's of Alabama
- Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
- AlaQuest Center for Performance Excellence
- The Ratliff Charitable Foundation
- YWCA of Central Alabama
- AmeriCorps
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation
- Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation
- Fairfield City Board of Education
- Alabama School of Fine Arts
- James Milton and Sally R. Johnson Foundation
- Magic City Acceptance Center
- Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation

2018 Partners



- Daniel Foundation of Alabama
- UAB Medical West
- Susan Mott Web Foundation
- Hugh Kaul Foundation
- Southern Wings One Inc.
- DST Systems
- Riverchase Presbyterian Church
- Over 200 individual community members who donate their time and treasure to the effort

OUR GOAL

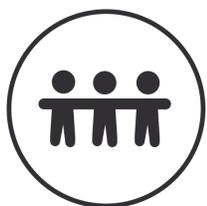
ACE's goal is to make social and emotional learning an integral part of education in Alabama.



1. We believe that violence, suicide, and underachievement can all be mitigated by empowering people with the social and emotional skills they need to love themselves and positively relate to others.
2. We believe that social and emotional learning is the first step in supporting a person's mental health and must be a valued aspect of every child's K-12 education experience. **Education does not stop at the schoolhouse doors; therefore all aspects of community must be in support of social and emotional well-being.**
3. Studies confirm that investing in social and emotional learning leads to improved academic achievement, better classroom behavior, increased ability to manage stress and depression, and increased graduation rates. **Every \$1 invested in social and emotional learning yields \$11 in long-term benefits to students, schools, and communities.**

We've expanded in-class programs, trained local educators, empowered LGBTQ youth, and launched a new program to support data-driven integration of SEL.

OUR WORK



In 2018, ACE:

Delivered in-class Social and Emotional Learning programs to over 2,000 students in schools,



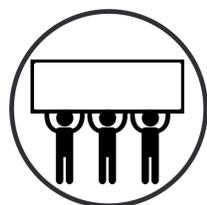
trained over 80 educators in Social and Emotional Learning,



facilitated

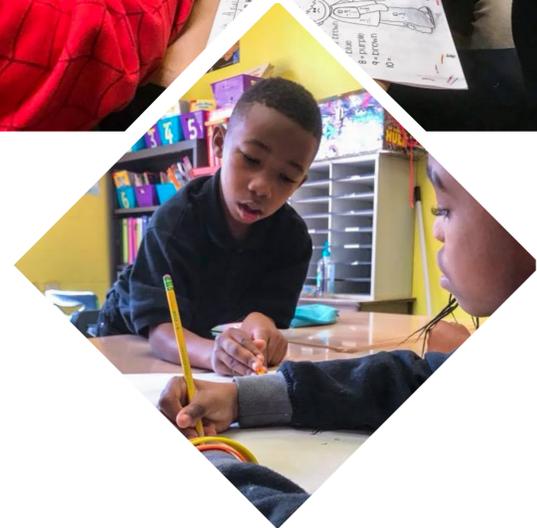
12 Self-Care workshops for LGBTQ youth

at the Magic City Acceptance Center,



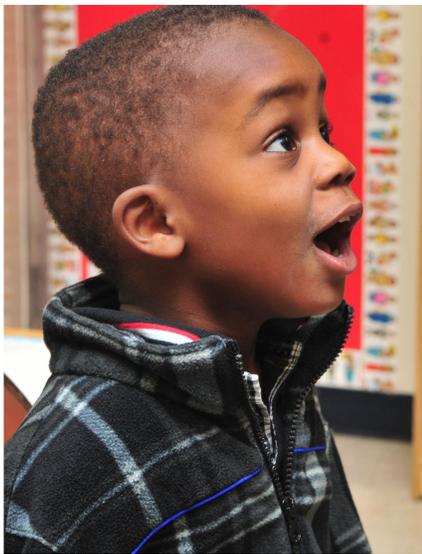
and launched the ACE Culture Coach program to support

systemic Social & Emotional Learning integration for 2 local high schools.



Supporting social and emotional learning isn't easy, but it's worth it. Alabamians recognize the need to support mental health in education, but finding time and financial resources is often a barrier to access. **We must work together to develop and support creative solutions.**

2018 HIGHLIGHTS



“Children’s of Alabama is excited to support Alaquest Collaborative for Education. Their tested model of teacher training, in-class programming, and community outreach will help advance the goal of ensuring youth receive the very best mental and behavioral health education possible.”

- *Coke Matthews, Children's Vice President*

"I know that SEL will completely change depression, violence, and bullying in schools. Teenagers already have a lot of stress. School should be a place where they not only feel safe, but supported and loved. There ARE people like ACE who want and know how to help kids, schools just need to let them come and teach."

- *8th Grade, Alabama School of Fine Arts*



Fairfield students learn about kindness.



4th grade students get to know one another through the name web activity.



Folks get silly at Life Skills Education Volunteer Training.



Youth at the Magic City Acceptance Center learn about gratitude.



2nd grade students explore the concept of teamwork.



Students learn about the science behind self control by modeling the human brain with their fists.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Culture Coach Program

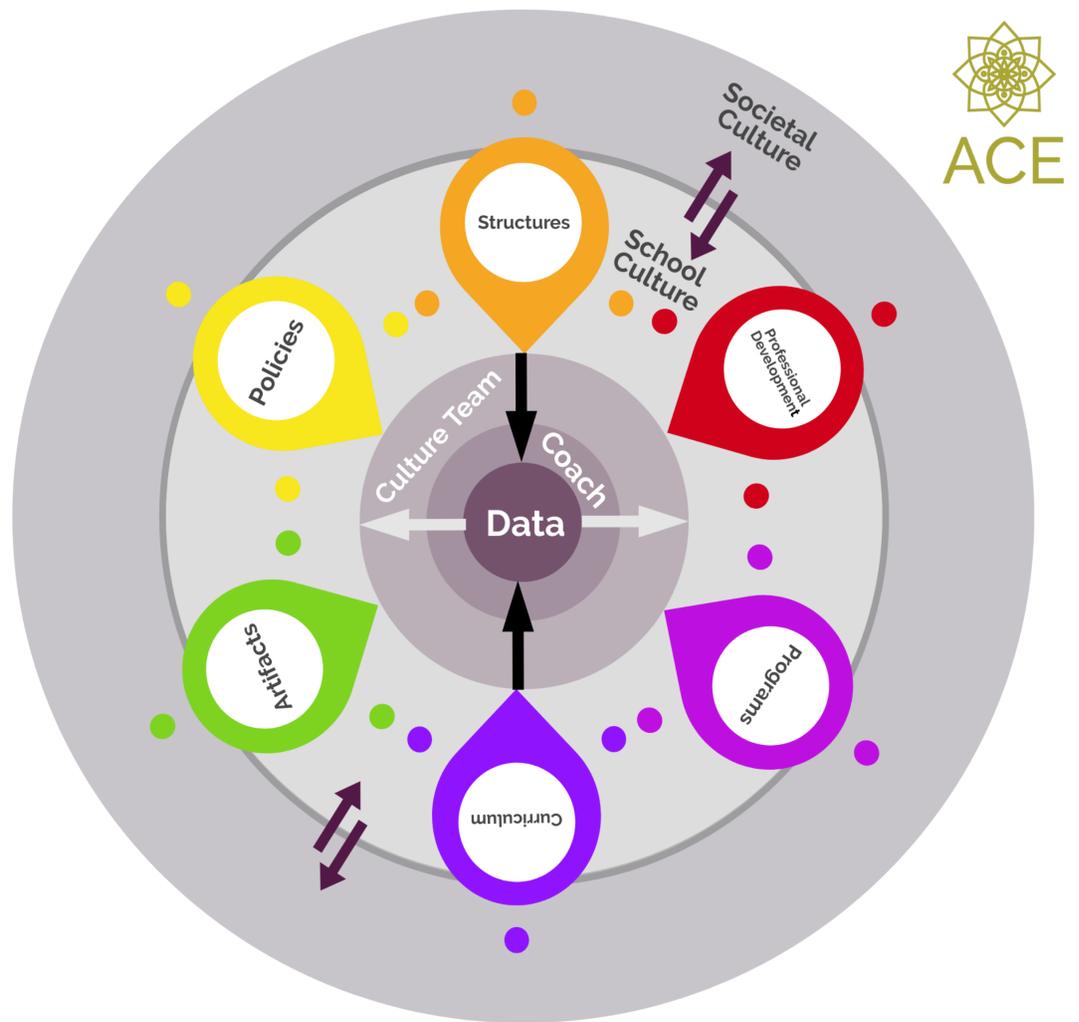
The ACE Culture Coach program is an innovative initiative that addresses the need for long-term cultural change by placing full-time SEL professionals (Culture Coaches) in partnering schools.

Culture Coaches are trained to analyze data from student/ teacher/ parent surveys, stakeholder interviews, and SEL Walkthroughs to identify areas in need of social, emotional, and mental health intervention.

Stakeholder teams are then coached on how to engage in an adaptive change process that addresses these gaps with evidence-based strategies.

School and student outcomes are evaluated with repeated data gathering and coaching to ensure quality and fidelity.

CULTURE COACHING
a data-driven adaptive change model for SEL integration and support.



Culture Team The Culture Team is a group of school admin, faculty, staff, and stakeholders who serve as leaders for the adaptive change process.

Coach A professional coach works alongside the Culture Team to support the process.

Information Information is gathered through data mining, surveys, and interviews with students, parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Data Data is analyzed to understand gaps in Social and Emotional Learning.

Findings Findings are used to determine appropriate Social and Emotional Learning interventions, policies, procedures, and structures.

Relationship There is a reciprocal relationship between school culture and societal culture. What happens in broader society affects the culture of a school and the work we do in supporting positive school culture can positively affect the culture of our communities.

VISIT www.acealabama.org TO GET INVOLVED!



Become a monthly donor!



Volunteer your time!



Support while you shop!



Follow us on social media!

SEE BACK FOR MORE DETAILS.

Join us in supporting a happy, healthy future!



Become a monthly donor!

Whether \$5 or \$500, monthly donations give ACE the financial stability and confidence we need to continue expanding our work. It's easy to sign up online, and you can manage your donation setting any time through a personal management portal.

Visit www.acealabama.org/donate to get started. THANK YOU!



Volunteer your time!

Do you have a talent or passion that can add value to the work we're doing at ACE?

Visit www.acealabama.org/register-as-a-volunteer, and let's get you activated!



Support while you shop!

You're going to shop, so why not support ACE at the same time? You can shop at many of your favorite online retailers directly through our website, add ACE as your chosen charity on AmazonSmile, and download the Planet Fundraiser app which allows you to raise funds for free by simply linking your debit card and shopping at many local businesses as usual.

Visit www.acealabama.org/support-while-you-shop to learn more!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US



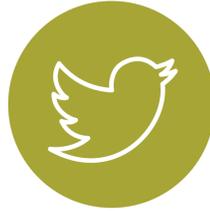
205-223-6314



P.O. Box 550241
Birmingham, AL
35255



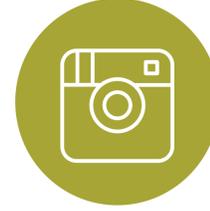
info@alaquest.net



www.twitter.com/SEL4Bama



www.facebook.com/ACEalabamaSEL/



www.instagram.com/ace_alabama/