

# Enhancing Social Emotional Learning and Equity

Social emotional learning (SEL) and equity have moved to the forefront of education since the pandemic started. With so many students out of the classroom and challenged by all the disruptions COVID-19 has caused, supporting students through SEL best practices, lessons, and activities in an equitable manner is not just beneficial for learning but also necessary in face of how education has changed over the last months.

STEMscopes Math has adapted to meet the challenges of SEL and equity in our program. We've made STEMscopes Math more accessible and conducive to a growth mindset, found ways to self-efficacy (whole child learning) through metacognitive practices embedded in lessons, added WCAG compliance and new ADA updates (available starting 2021-22 school year) to accommodate unique learning styles and students with disabilities, and upgraded our technology to allow for offline access (available in STEMscopes Plus). Good teaching is still good teaching; however, to aid in SEL teaching and enhance equity, STEMscopes has added specific tools and features within our lessons. Explore them below:

## Equity-focused Supporting Features:

- Career connections about STEM workers who are diverse ethnically, socially, and with respect to gender and sexual orientation
- Use of diverse characters (visually and in writing) in student readings and activities
- Real-world connections in PBLs and Math Today
- Embedded teacher supports to aid in instruction with ELL students
- Training and professional development that is mindful of inclusivity, diversity
- Lessons designed to teach with productive struggle and intentional discourse
- Assignability features that allow each student to work on what they need help on the most (i.e., differentiation)

## SEL-focused Supporting Features:

- **Hooks, Explores, and Math Today:** designed to help connect current tasks with student personal interests (self-awareness)
- **Teacher Toolbox (esp. Intervention Tools):** a plethora of tools that help struggling students manage stress, anxiety, and focus through smaller, feasible tasks while still promoting content mastery (self-management)
- **Intentional discourse and productive struggle as core instructional elements:** fosters a positive classroom environment where students learn to celebrate differences, embrace frustration, and develop empathy alongside respect (social awareness)
- **My Math Thoughts and cooperative Elaborate activities:** act as catalysts for the development of speaking and listening skills (relationship skills)
- **Decide and Defends and PBLs:** key tools that develop reasoning strategies and the ability to shift perspectives (responsible decision-making)
- **My Math Thoughts:** supports the development of students' affective filter writing (emotional intelligence)

