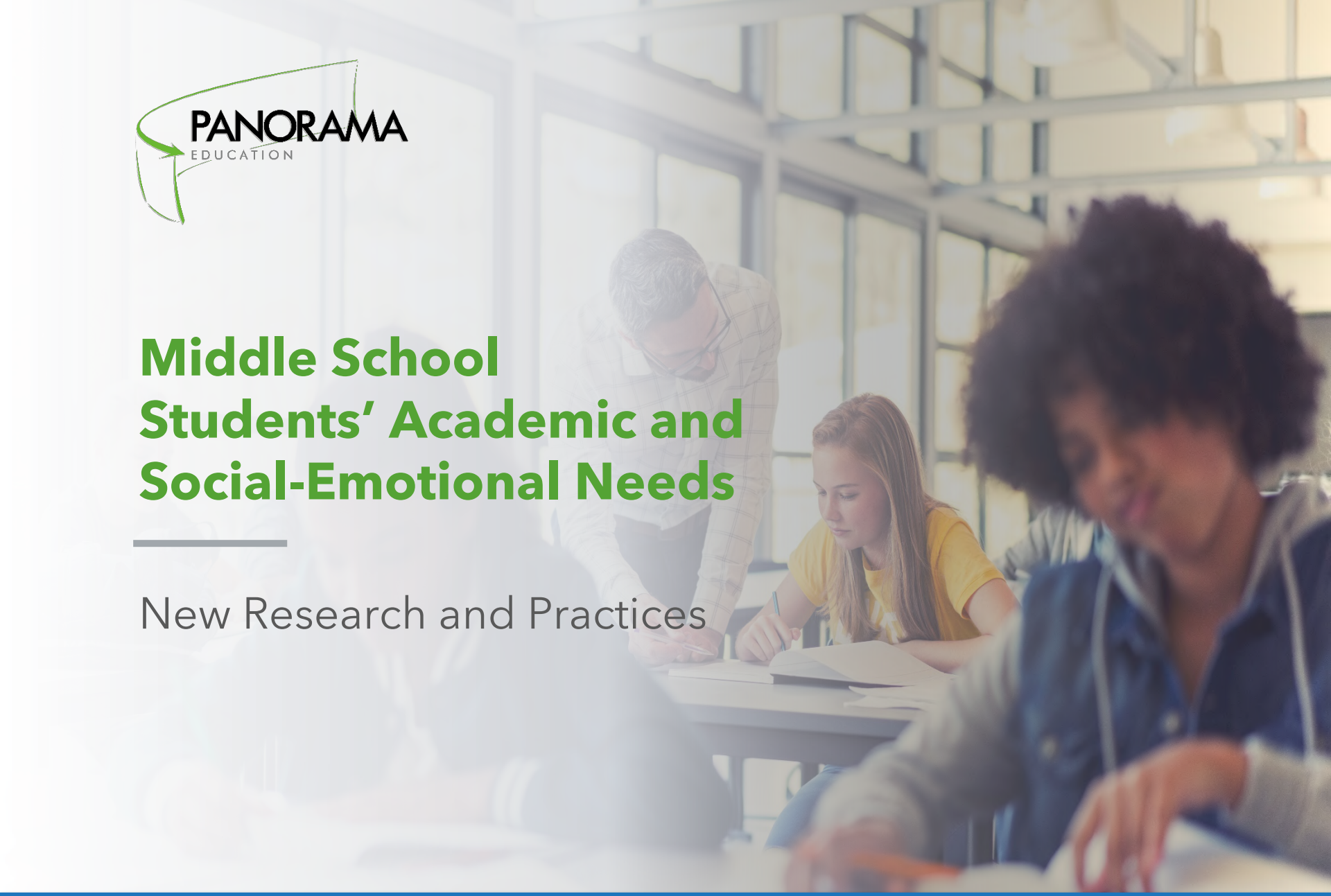

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Middle School Students' Academic and Social-Emotional Needs

New Research and Practices

Join the Discussion | #MiddleSchoolSEL

Nicole Mickle

Success Partner

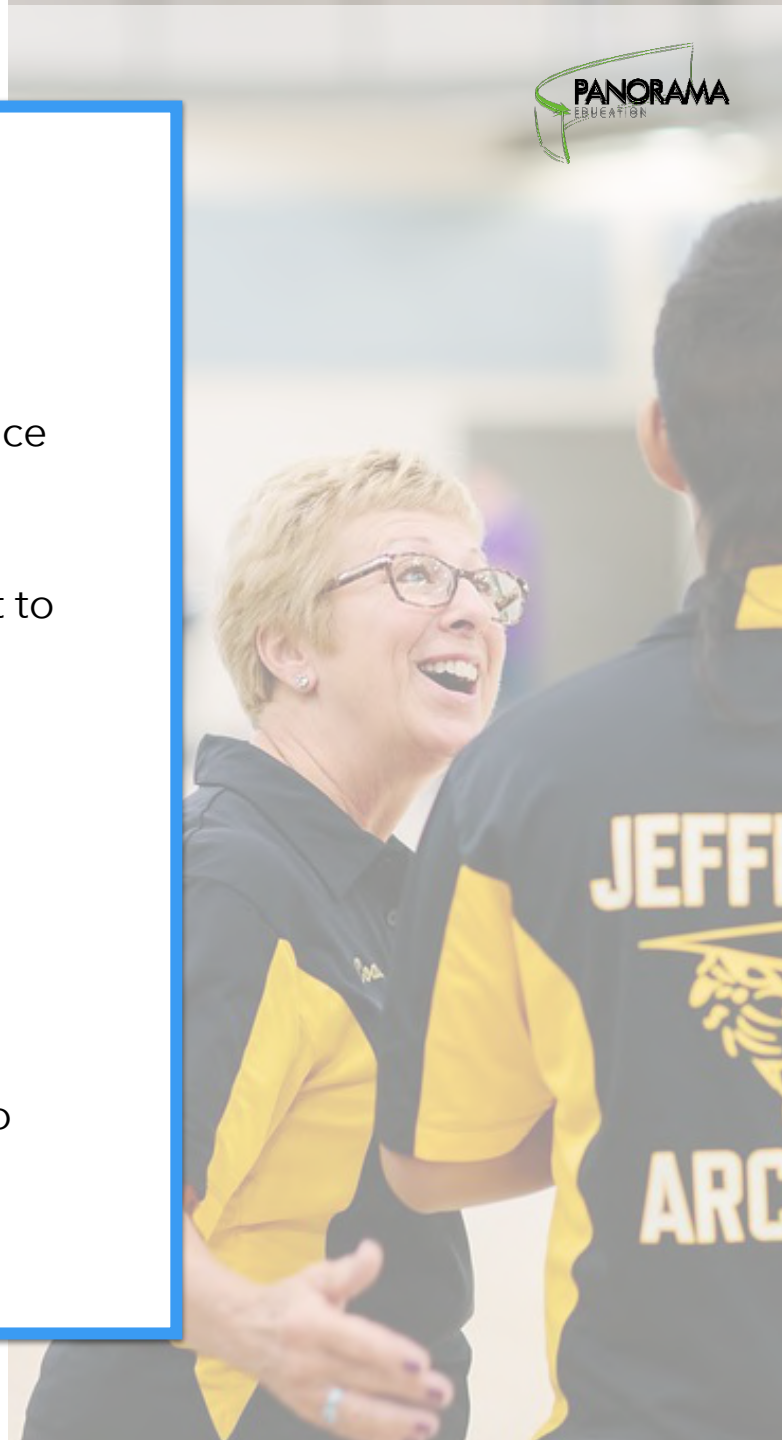
www.panoramaed.com

Join the Discussion | **#MiddleSchoolSEL**

What do middle school students need?

Today's "Look Fors"

- School climate surveys and focus groups to understand students' middle school experience and identify gaps
- Social-emotional learning (SEL) measurement to boost academic outcomes for middle school students
- SEL data within tiered student support frameworks to identify students who start to struggle and who are ready for advanced coursework
- Data inquiry and design thinking processes to innovate to support student growth



Champaign 4 UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

In our middle schools, we will...

- Provide an equitable foundation across every school.
- Provide every middle school student with the supports he or she needs to succeed.

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Angela Ward

Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Academics

In our middle schools, we will...

- Improve academic outcomes by addressing the social and emotional needs of all of our students.

Dr. Ilia Molina

Executive Director,
Middle School Redesign

What do middle school students need

To be ready for college, career, and life?

COURSEWORK

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

ATTENDANCE

BEHAVIOR

Supporting middle school students' academic, social, and emotional needs

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How does SEL correlate with the ABCs?

Supporting Students' Academic Growth

By Understanding Their Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs

Middle School Redesign – Where we started

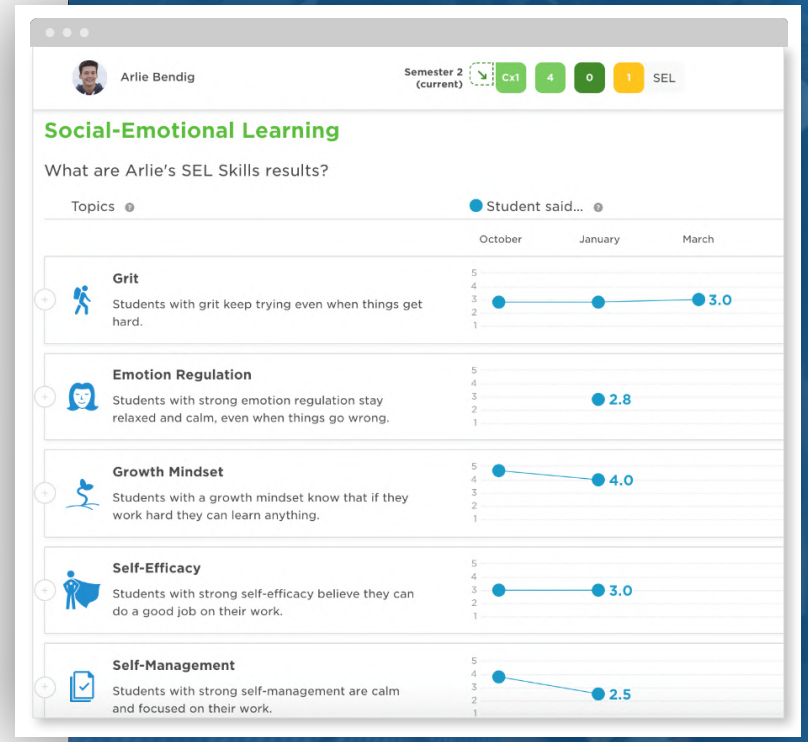
Academic scores stagnated. School climate surveys showed students and parents weren't happy with the traditional structure.

Digging deeper, three themes emerged:

1. Students asked us for **more social-emotional support**
2. Students told us they were bored
3. Students and teachers asked us to look at the master schedule to offer different experiences and **opportunities to connect**

What we need to understand

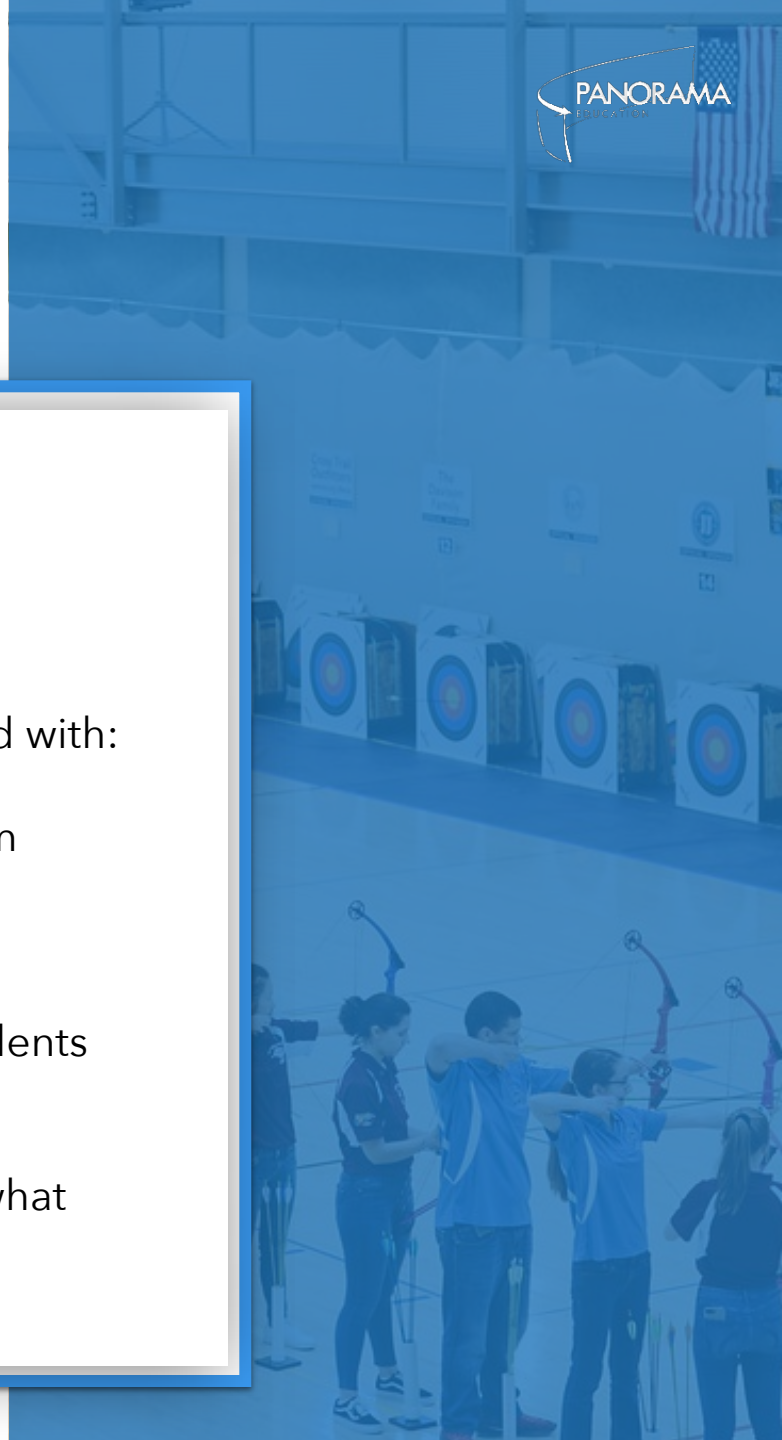
- **Sense of Belonging** – Do our students feel valued at their school?
- **Safety** – How do our students feel across key facets of safety, such as in-person and online bullying behavior and physical safety
- **Growth Mindset** – Do our students believe they can increase their intelligence and talent through effort?
- **Grit** – Do our students believe they can persevere through set-backs to pursue and important goal?



The Foundation Across Our Middle Schools

- Standards-based grading
- Focus on skills, rather than behaviors
- Strong counseling standards
- Social-emotional learning curriculum for all students using Second Step
- Feedback from students around belonging and relationships using Panorama
- Master schedule includes “Flex Time” and “Rebound Days”

Addressing Students' Needs



BEFORE

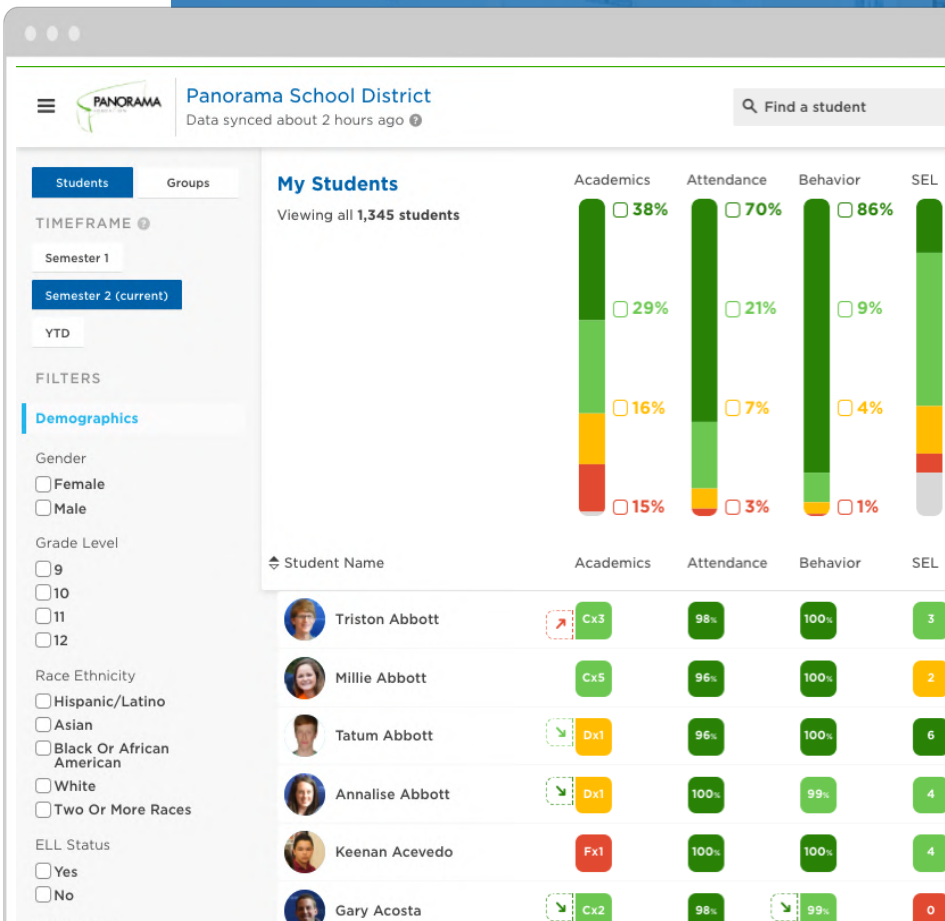
Our counseling team identified that they struggled with:

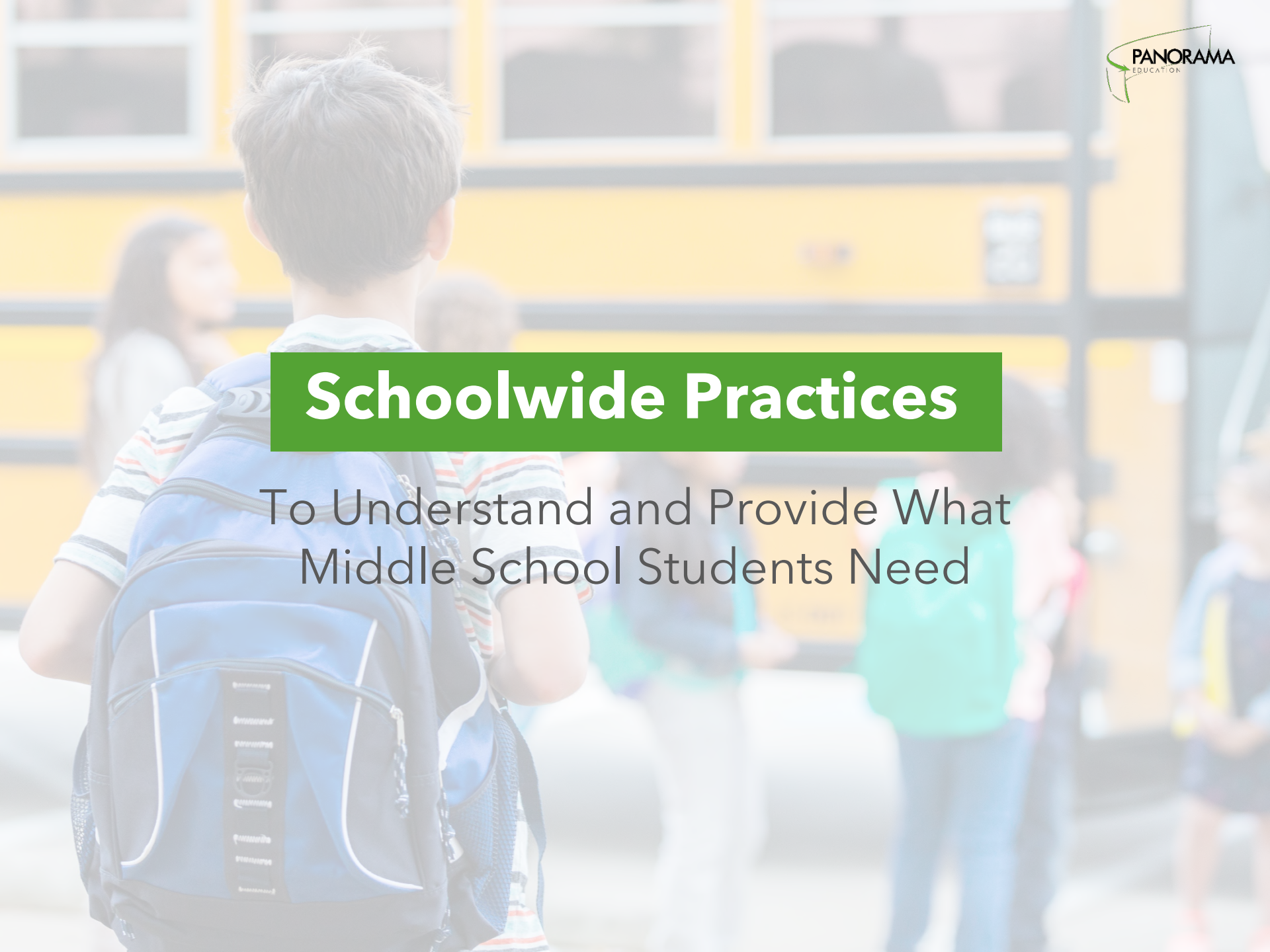
- Reacting to issues, rather than preventing them
- Making sense of data in separate systems
- Spending time in spreadsheets to identify students for Tier 2 supports and monitor progress
- Using an SEL program without truly knowing what our students are getting out of it

Proactively Addressing Students' Needs

WITH PANORAMA

- Get to students faster
- Identifying more students for advanced courses and AVID
- Running efficient MTSS and RTI processes
- "You have SEL strengths, let's find them"





Schoolwide Practices

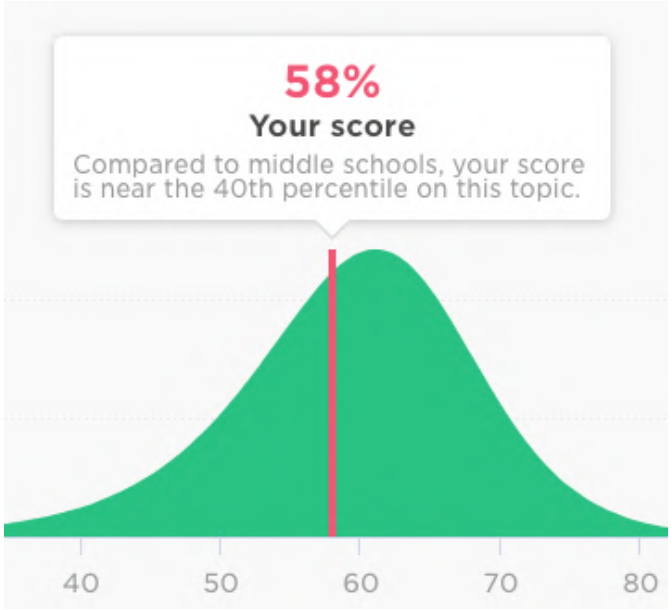
To Understand and Provide What Middle School Students Need

Champaign 4 UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our students depend on us to know who they are.

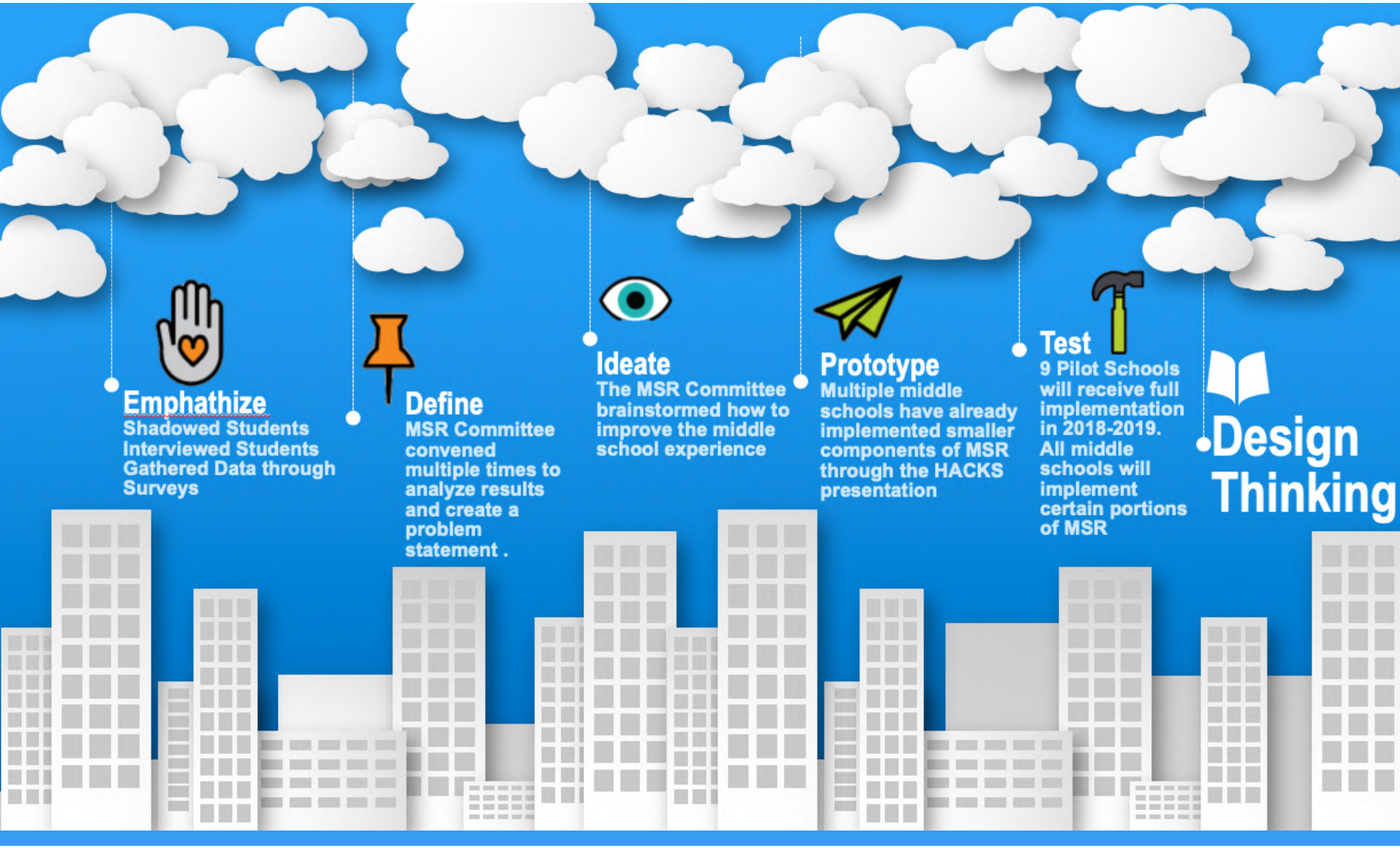
School Climate Data for School Improvement

- What do we think our buildings feel like? What do our students say?
- Do our black students feel that they belong in their school at parity with their peers?
- Do students across all student groups have strong relationships with adults in our building?



Teacher-Student Relationships results from one middle school in Champaign Unit 4 Schools

Using Design Thinking to Empathize With and Provide What Our Students Need


Emphathize
Shadowed Students
Interviewed Students
Gathered Data through Surveys
Define
MSR Committee convened multiple times to analyze results and create a problem statement .
Ideate
The MSR Committee brainstormed how to improve the middle school experience
Prototype
Multiple middle schools have already implemented smaller components of MSR through the HACKS presentation
Test
9 Pilot Schools will receive full implementation in 2018-2019. All middle schools will implement certain portions of MSR
Design Thinking

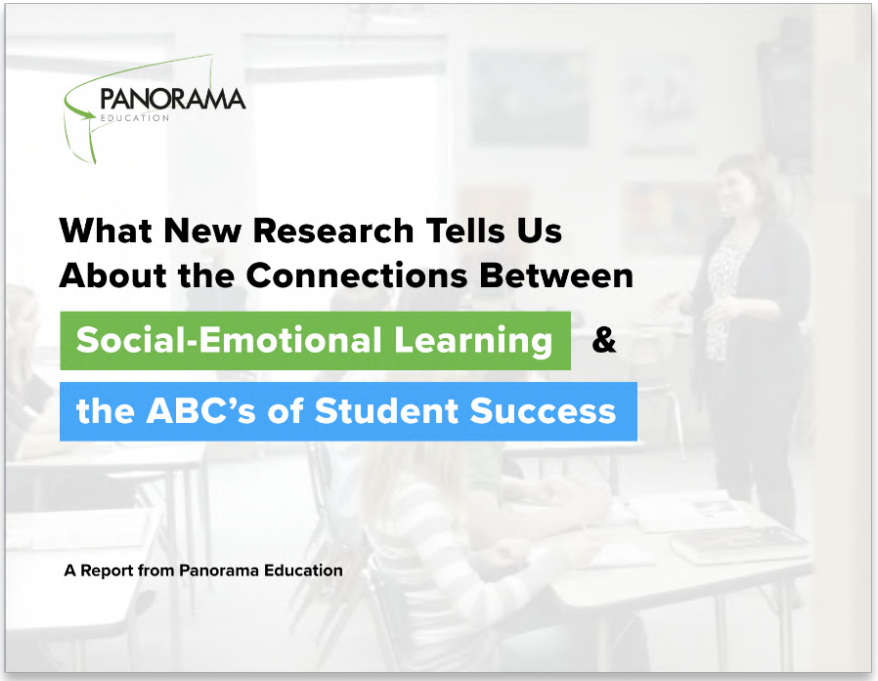
Developing Strategies to Address Students' Needs

- **To improve safety,** one large campus developed a new, color-coded pass system and introduced it with a PSA video created by students
- **To improve belonging,** one campus introduced "Club Hour" for students

What's been the impact?

+ Increased attendance on Club Hour days
+ Increased student engagement

Panorama's Research Brief: SEL + ABCs



Download the resource:

bit.ly/sel-abc

Questions & Answers

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Thank You

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