

Next Steps

Please complete the following Next Steps, to integrate your experiences within your own schools and communities with the information presented in this chapter.

1. After reading about the seeds of hope, share with other teachers how well you think your school is addressing these essential social-emotional needs. What do you think you and your school are doing well? Which seeds do you feel it would be important to work on?
2. Use the seeds of hope as a guide to talking to your students about the effectiveness of your school. You might develop a short anonymous survey in which the students are asked to reflect and comment on how well they think the school is meeting their social-emotional needs. You might also use the same survey with adults in the school and then see the degree of agreement there is among the teachers and how much they agree or disagree with the students. This always leads to powerful conversations. You can find sample student surveys online (see www.solutiontree.com/free-resources/schoolimprovement/bacoh).
3. Purpose is so important for high school students. In your school, or the area high school, do you feel that staff are helping students develop, clarify, and pursue purpose in their lives? Do you feel some of the tasks described in this chapter relating to *purpose* would be worthwhile to discuss with the school staff in your school as well as with students and their parents?
4. For each seed of hope, create a three-column diagram with columns titled “Doing,” “Change,” and “Add.” Fill out this chart, preferably with colleagues or as part of a PLC meeting, for each seed of hope. Consider what you are doing in your school that already addresses each seed of hope, things you are doing that you want to change (either eliminate because they are counterproductive, or further develop), and things that you would like to add. These completed charts can guide your practice.
5. Which SEL or sensory practices are in place in your school? Which would you like to implement?