



Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum is a research-based social and emotional learning program for students in Preschool/Kindergarten through Grade 9. The *Second Step* program teaches children how to deal with emotions, resist impulsive behavior, resolve conflict, solve problems, and understand the consequences of their actions. Children who receive *Second Step* instruction experience growth in self-confidence and a readiness for academic learning.



Second Step® Program Alignment with **Academic Content Standards**

The *Second Step* program is published by Committee for Children, a nonprofit organization seeking to improve children's lives by providing research-based violence prevention, anti-bullying, and child abuse/personal safety programs for schools, families, and communities.

For further information about Committee for Children, visit our Web site at www.cfchildren.org or call 1-800-634-4449, ext. 200.



Second Step[®] Program Alignment with Academic Content Standards



Educators using the *Second Step* program often ask how the curriculum supports their state's academic learning standards. The alignment charts found on the following pages illustrate the many connections between the *Second Step* program and student academic learning standards at all grade levels from Kindergarten to Grade 9.

The charts align the *Second Step* curriculum with standards from *Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K–12 Education* by John S. Kendall and Robert J. Marzano, third edition (2003). This carefully analyzed compilation of content standards is a comprehensive model drawn from national subject-matter associations.

In addition to the usual subject areas, such as math, science, and language arts, Kendall and Marzano's *Compendium* calls out two other content areas: Life Skills and Behavioral Studies.

- The Life Skills category includes four subcategories. Three are critical to job or career success (Self-Regulation, Working with Others, and Life Work), and one, Thinking and Reasoning Skills, represents essential skills that form the foundation for every academic subject. The *Second Step* curriculum strongly aligns with many of the Life Skills.
- The Behavioral Studies category combines sociology, psychology, and social anthropology content and contains standards supported by the *Second Step* program.

The academic standards terminology used in individual states may vary somewhat from the wording used in Kendall and Marzano's *Compendium*. However, since the *Compendium* includes common concepts that are addressed by most state standards, educators should easily be able to apply the program alignment information contained in the attached *Second Step* charts to their own state standards.

The third edition of *Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K–12 Education* can be found online at <http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>. Individual state standards may be found online at <http://edStandards.org/Standards.html>.

Second Step Program Alignment with Content Standards

The *Second Step* program aligns with content standards in two ways:

1. **Key content elements and concepts** such as empathy, problem solving, and anger/emotion management.
 - These content elements and concepts are reinforced throughout the curriculum at each grade level. For example, empathy skills are taught in the empathy unit and integrated and practiced within the other units at each level of the curriculum. Thus, when an academic content standard is aligned with a key *Second Step* concept, that standard is addressed multiple times in the curriculum.
2. **Core teaching and learning strategies** such as the use of story and class discussion, role-play, teacher modeling, coaching and cueing, and planned reinforcement of behavior.
 - These teaching and learning strategies are employed during every *Second Step* lesson and at other times during the school day to extend learning.

Strengthening the Connection: Second Step Academic Extension Activities

Almost every lesson at every level of the *Second Step* curriculum includes activities that extend lessons into academic content areas. Using these activities, teachers can address other academic content standards not included in these charts. Additional *Second Step* curriculum extension activities for Preschool through Grade 5 are provided on the *Committee for Children* Web site at www.cfchildren.org.

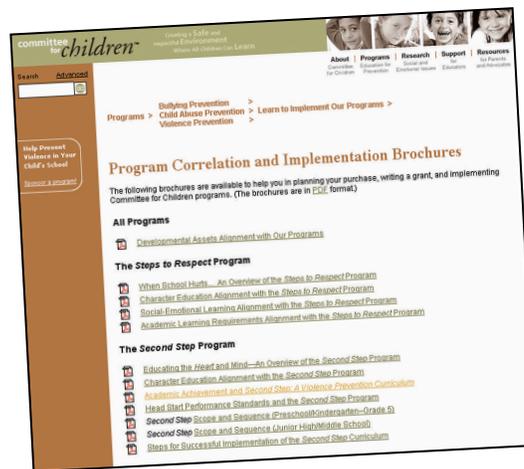


Research Links Social and Emotional Skills to Academic Achievement

Visit our Web site at www.cfchildren.org/program_implementation_pdfs to learn about research studies that link social and emotional skills to academic achievement. You may also request a copy of this brochure by calling us at 1-800-634-4449, ext. 200.



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