

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2021–2022

Our annual overview of  
the organization's growth,  
advocacy, and path forward.



**Committee  
for Children®**

Grow Kinder

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# A Year of Continued Perseverance

**Committee for Children remained steadfast in providing social-emotional learning (SEL) programs this year in the face of societal, cultural, political, and global issues that challenged the macroeconomy, public safety, and our mission.** Despite increased misinformation about SEL and attempts by some politically motivated actors to build anti-SEL sentiment, we worked diligently to expand our reach with curricula and resources to foster the safety and well-being of more than 24.4 million children in 40,000 schools worldwide.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to push us to adapt to new ways of working and delivering on our mission. We know this phase of learning recovery has been difficult and exhausting for everyone, especially educators. Through the limitations, we continued to provide resources to help facilitate SEL in various education settings. We also started developing a Second Step® program for high school to further support students in secondary education. And with an ongoing commitment to research and evidence, we refined our products to ensure that they are working in service of our students, educators, and communities.

We also continued our journey to build an anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive workplace in support of contributing to a more just society. We prioritized diversity, equity, inclusion, and a culture of belonging at the heart of our strategic plan to allow us to focus our work on the positive development of every child.

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We are proud of the contributions we made toward our mission at a time when SEL was challenged and most needed. This work required extensive partnership and collaboration with policy- and decision-makers, families, educators, and children. We look forward to the work we have ahead, together, to realize our vision of creating a more just and peaceful world where every child can thrive and grow kinder.

Warmly,



Andrea Lovanhill  
Chief Executive Officer



# Protecting Life Skills

Our 2021–2022 policy and advocacy work protected SEL efforts during learning recovery challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We preserved policy investments and advanced targeted supports for states experiencing increased anti-SEL sentiments despite broad approval for SEL across the nation.



## Federal Advocacy

**Working with Congress**, we once again championed historic, dedicated investments in SEL and increases in traditional budget coffers that help fund SEL, such as Title IV-A and Title I in the Every Student Succeeds Act. We elevated the need for primary prevention in various youth mental health legislative and agency packages, and joined coalition actions to support safe and welcoming learning environments, teacher retention and well-being policies, and SEL as part of workforce readiness.







### State Advocacy

**At the state level**, many of our efforts focused on protecting SEL in the face of growing opposition. We held key leadership positions across multiple coalitions—notably, Leading with SEL, SEL4US, and SEL Providers Association—where we hosted advocacy and messaging workshops, provided extensive policy analysis, and coordinated numerous actions with dozens of allied organizations and leaders.

We ran targeted legislative advocacy efforts in Florida, Indiana, and Washington State. In Florida, we protected student mental health allocations (inclusive of primary prevention), which increased again this year. We also advocated rulemaking on a mandated “resiliency education” initiative that includes instruction in civics, character-building, mental health, and newly codified life skills. In Indiana, we helped defeat a bill that was deeply antagonistic to SEL. We coordinated action alerts, testimony preparation, and lawmaker meetings. In Washington, we successfully advocated passage of more than \$4.7 million in new and ongoing funding for SEL-related efforts including multitiered systems of support, trauma-informed practice, and curriculum grants.



### Influencing Policy

**Our policy work** also included scholarly contributions. We published [a peer-reviewed article](#) showing how SEL undergirds in-school, evidence-based youth suicide prevention strategies, and [a policy paper](#) reviewing how education programs can help prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children.



## Programs

# A Second Step<sup>®</sup> Program for High School

We're designing an SEL program to help high schoolers succeed in school, connect with their families and communities, and prepare for the future.

Committee for Children is researching and developing a social-emotional learning program for high school students. Today, our Second Step<sup>®</sup> family of programs includes classroom-based curricula for Early Learning–Grade 8, as well as programs for out-of-school time and adults. Now we're exploring the most effective way to support students' social-emotional development during their high school years. Our team has identified important dynamics that will guide the work, and with the help of partner schools and districts across the country, the 2022–2023 school year is all about learning, prototyping, testing, and refining.

# Increased Efficiency and Impact

As our reach continues to expand, we're focusing our investments on sustainable, scalable programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inequities in education and amplified the need for greater social-emotional supports for students and educators, making our investments in SEL program development and training more critical than ever. As awareness of the need for SEL in schools has grown, so has our impact. Last year, we reached 24.4 million children, moving us closer to our goal of positively and equitably transforming the social-emotional well-being of 100 million children annually by 2030.



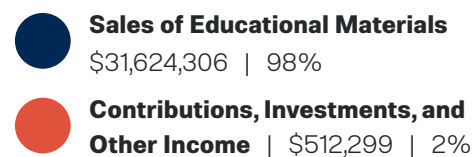
# 24.4 MILLION



## Program and Support Expenses



## Support and Revenue





## Supporters

# Investing in Our Future

Thank you for your generosity!

## Individual Supporters

Anonymous

Amanda Wilson

Ari Teman

Inal Tshovrebov

Jonathan and Erin Woods

Leslie Radin

Stanton Koch

## Organizational Supporters

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

### Special Thanks

In 2021, Committee for Children was awarded a two-year research grant of nearly \$1 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will allow us to study adolescent and educator engagement, make targeted improvements to our middle school program, and develop new implementation resources. We are incredibly grateful for this and other support from our partners, who include individual donors, educators, industry experts, and advocates. Thank you for making our work possible!

**Small Business  
Administration**

**Allstate**

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