

# BLOOD IN THE WATER

# SELL

SOCIAL

EMOTIONAL

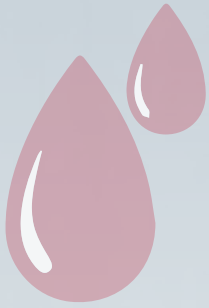
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# One Minute Summary

## VICTORY



The West Shore School District in Pennsylvania has reached a settlement in a lawsuit, agreeing to grant all parents the option to exempt their children from **radical and intrusive Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum**. The district implemented a program named "CharacterStrong," however, all SEL initiatives operate under similar misleading tactics.

The legal action was filed against the school district due to its unlawful refusal to honor legitimate opt-out requests from numerous concerned parents, thus infringing upon their First Amendment rights. This tool, "Blood In The Water", provides details of the lawsuit and shows parents how to utilize this legal precedent to exercise their right to opt their children out of all SEL programs.

*West Shore School District in Pennsylvania settled the lawsuit and agreed*

**"Parents can opt-out** their children from the District's **SEL curriculum**, CharacterStrong, with a simple request to the district that identifies the SEL curriculum and states that the parent has a religious objection to it."

# SEL is a religion

*SEL programs meet the federal government's [definition of a religion](#), which is a*

**“comprehensive belief system that addresses the fundamental questions of human existence, such as the meaning of life and death, man’s role in the universe, and the nature of good and evil, and that gives rise to duties of conscience.”**

## The Lawsuit

[Details of the lawsuit from America First Legal](#)

*In the settlement agreement, West Shore School District agreed:*

- The District’s responses to Opt-Out requests were not consistent, and therefore ran afoul of the Plaintiffs’ 1st and 14th Amendment rights, violated a Pennsylvania religious liberty statute, and violated their own Board Policy 105.3.
- Parents can opt-out their children from the District’s SEL curriculum, CharacterStrong, with a simple request to the district that identifies the SEL curriculum and states that the parent has a religious objection to it.
- The District agreed to immediately excuse Plaintiffs’ children from all SEL instruction.
- The District agrees that Plaintiffs’ children shall be removed from the classroom during any and all SEL instruction through grade 8. After reaching high school, if an SEL curriculum has been adopted, the teacher will provide a prompt so students can leave the classroom during the SEL instruction.
- The District agreed to pay Plaintiffs’ attorneys fees and costs in the amount of \$40,000.

# The Lawsuit Continued

[Read the case file](#)

1. According to the School District, the CharacterStrong SEL curriculum "intentionally teaches character traits and goes in-depth into what these traits look like and then follows up with practical ways to improve them in their own lives and with those around them."
2. The CharacterStrong SEL curriculum "is routine part of the student day with lessons included during morning meetings at the elementary schools."
3. The CharacterStrong SEL curriculum teaches children to identify their own "values and virtues" and to reflect on those values to "help guide their decisions."
4. Indeed, the CharacterStrong SEL curriculum "is [more than a curriculum](#)" and it instead seeks to enable "students to become their best possible selves." (The link leads to a screenshot because CharacterStrong scrubbed their original page after the lawsuit).
5. The School District acknowledges that the CharacterStrong SEL curriculum is designed to supplement the personal values that parents instill in their children.

The school district uses the SEL program CharacterStrong, however **all SEL character education programs are a violation of the First Amendment.**

*"The essence of the First Amendment is that people have freedom of conscience, particularly with regard to matters of spiritual belief, and freedom of speech, such that the state can neither compel nor restrict speech."*

*".....educational programs violate for many people both freedom of conscience and freedom of speech. Their freedom of speech is violated by compelling them to admit to complicity in racism and sexism, among other social violations that are unlikely to be true. It also compels them to adopt a particular approach to anti-racism and anti-sexism that is very narrow and to speak on its behalf."*

— [James Lindsay](#)

# Does this precedent apply to my family?

## YES IT DOES

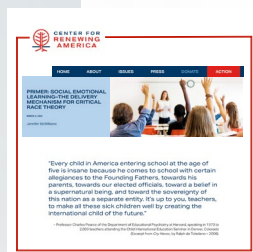
The First Amendment, which includes freedom of religion, does not mean you have to be a devout follower of a mainstream religion in order to benefit from its protection. Our Constitution protects your fundamental right to a free conscience. Freedom of conscience means you have the right to all private beliefs and should never be coerced by the government to change those views. As long as you hold a system of certain values & beliefs (YOU ALL DO!), the government is constitutionally prohibited from usurping that right. Social Emotional Learning and "Character Development" programs violate the First Amendment rights of ALL American citizens.

## APPENDIX A

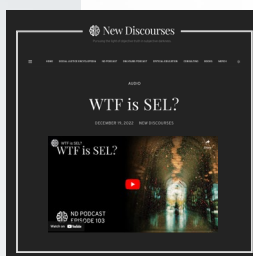
*Social Emotional Learning (SEL) prepares children's minds to absorb any current and future social contagion by weaponizing their natural high degree of "empathy."*



## SEL Decoder



## SEL Primer



## WTF is SEL?

***RE: Opt-Out Request for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs***

I am writing to formally request that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, be excused from participation in the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program at \_\_\_\_\_. As a parent, I deeply value my child's education and am committed to fostering a learning environment that aligns with our family's principles.

It is inappropriate and goes against my child's Constitutional rights for aspects like character education, values, and beliefs to be conveyed to my child through SEL program(s). It is imperative for our family that these SEL elements are not instilled in our child without prior approval.

In accordance with my parental rights and the principles outlined in the First Amendment, please regard this as my formal request to opt my child out of SEL programs or any SEL-related activities.

(For precedent see: [BRANDI BRANDL, OLIVER BRANDL, III, KRISTIE ALWINE AND FRANK W. JOHNSON, SR. vs WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT](#))

I understand that alternative arrangements may be necessary for my child during the SEL program, and I am open to discussing suitable alternatives that do not involve the aforementioned elements.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working collaboratively to ensure that my child's education remains in harmony with our family's values.

Sincerely,

Name

Signature

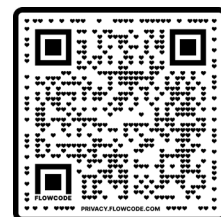
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FOR YOUR CHILDREN TODAY  
*THEY WILL LIVE ON THEIR KNEES TOMORROW***



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