

Introduction to QTurn White Papers

November 22, 2021 | QTurn Team

We, at QTurn, are pleased to share the first three, in a series of four, white papers. White Paper 1, *Socio-Emotional Skills, Quality, and Equity* (Peck & Smith, 2020), provides a translational framework for understanding our relatively unique view of the key parts of a socio-emotional skill set. In short, we develop a case for supplementing the traditional focus on student beliefs and behavior with a much more extensive focus on students' emotional life and the attention skills necessary for becoming the primary authors of their own development.

You can download White Paper 1 from our [website](#) or [ResearchGate](#). We've also published a [blog](#) describing what we think are some of the important points and implications of White Paper 1.

Although our work is anchored in the wide and deep range of developmental supports that are currently evident in the out-of-school time (OST) field, we view the "neuroperson" model described in White Paper 1 as applying to all adults and children in all settings. Quoting from the paper:

We introduce a theoretical framework designed to describe the integrated set of mental and behavioral parts and processes (i.e., schemas, beliefs, and awareness) that are socio-emotional skills and that produce both basic and advanced forms of agency. With improved definitions and understanding of SEL skills, and the causes of SEL skill growth, we hope to improve reasoning about programs and policies for socio-emotional supports in any setting where children spend time. Perhaps most importantly, we hope to inform policy decisions and advance applied developmental science by improving the accuracy and meaningfulness of basic data on children's SEL skill growth. (p. 3)

The series of white papers will define what exactly we do and believe at QTurn. After the translational framework is explained in [White Paper 1](#), White Paper 2 – [Measuring Socio-Emotional Skill, Impact, and Equity Outcomes](#) (Smith & Peck, 2020a) – provides guidance for selecting feasible and valid SEL skill measures. White Paper 3 – [Realist\(ic\) Evaluation Tools for OST Programs](#) – integrates the SEL framework and measures with a pattern-centered approach to both CQI and impact evaluation. White Paper 4 – *Citizen Science and Advocacy in OST* (Smith & Peck, 2020b) – presents an alternative evidence-based approach to improving both the impact and equity of OST investments. Over the next few weeks, we'll be releasing blogs related to White Papers 2 and 3.

We'll also be updating our website as we go along and hope to be joined in the blogging by a couple of expert clients in Flint and London. That's it for now. We look forward to sharing further information in the coming months and would love to receive any feedback you think might help further the cause of supporting OST staff and students.

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