**The Jumbled School House**

The jumbled schoolhouse analogy is a powerful visual tool to help schools recognize the importance of taking a whole-school mission driven approach to improving services and outcomes for students. Initially developed by Dr. Maurice Elias and the Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) team[[1]](#footnote-1), the metaphor helps educators understand that without a guiding framework, even the best intended practices can lead to fragmentation. Dr. Elias and his team of researchers assert that an effective social-emotional/character development framework is the essential piece that links the academic program, parent and community involvement, and all systems and programs within the school building. The resulting synergy helps ensure students receive the skills they need for success in life.

The activity, “The Jumbled School House,” presented in the *PDSC Leaders’ Guide*, utilizes the diagram below. Permission to print, enlarge, or convert the image below to PowerPoint is granted from Dr. Elias for use with this activity. When presenting, the activity credit should clearly be given to Dr. Elias and the DSACS Team. The authors of the *PDSC Leaders’ Guide* and the PDA are appreciative of Dr. Elias’ generosity in granting this permission.

If you would like to read further, explore the site: The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) – [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)

1. Elias, Maurice J. and the DSACS\_SECD Team ([www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com)). Guidelines for putting the pieces together: How to go from the jumbled school house to the synergized schoolhouse. Retrieved from [www.docstoc.com/docs/91651933](http://www.docstoc.com/docs/91651933) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)