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# California Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Crosswalk & Harmony Crosswalk Alignment

# Belonging, Connection, and the Relationship Skills That Make Learning Possible.

At Sanford Harmony, we know that students' and adults' sense of belonging is central to healthy learning. To create environments that center belonging, Sanford Harmony supports schools, out-of-school time (OST) organizations, and families to cultivate healthy relationships with oneself, with others, and within their communities. Because the science tells us that belonging improves student, adult, and school outcomes (e.g., attendance, behavior, and academic performance), our evidence-based programs and professional learning encourage student and adult connection, communication, respect, resilience, and lifelong well-being. Through our tools, resources, and support, we empower adults and students to create environments where young people thrive in the multiple spaces they live and learn.

### Boost Academic Success

Students build essential learning skills, show stronger engagement, and achieve higher academic outcomes.

### Reduce Disciplinary Issues

Harmony improves safety and reduces bullying and behavior issues through relationship skills and emotional regulation.

### Strengthen Educator Performance

Harmony enhances instructional practices and leadership, giving educators the tools to help students succeed.

### Support Families & Communities

Harmony strengthens communication, routines, and relationships at home—cultivating compassionate, responsible citizens.

### Build Confidence & Self-Direction

Students develop self-awareness, decision-making, and perseverance to navigate challenges, stay focused on their goals, and prepare for life after school.

### Prepare Students for the Workforce

Skills such as personal responsibility, problem-solving, and conflict resolution set students up to build strong relationships and thrive in today's competitive work environments.

### Improve School Climate

Leaders gain practical strategies and data insights to build stronger, more supportive learning environments.

*For more information, visit our Research page on the Harmony Curriculum Portal.*

# What We Do

Sanford Harmony provides no-cost and level-up digital resources, as well as print-based resources that promote healthy learning, belonging, and relationship skills through our:

**Harmony School Curriculum (PreK – 6)**

Designed for classroom educators to build welcoming, connected learning environments. Includes:

- Units, lessons, activities, and Everyday Practices
- Harmony Kits for classroom use
- Harmony Plus: lesson decks, data dashboard, and access to Harmony Connect social community

**Harmony Out-of-School Time (OST) Curriculum**

Created for youth development and expanded learning programs. Includes:

- Units, lessons, activities, and Everyday Practices
- Harmony Kits for OST and expanded learning settings

**Harmony Professional Learning**

Self-paced modules, certificates, and no-cost webinars that help educators, mentors, and expanded learning staff strengthen relationships, build effective practices, and grow as leaders.

**Harmony at Home**

A family-centered app or kits for parents, caregivers, and kids to enjoy together! Build relationship skills, deepen connections, and create healthy routines with playful prompts, animated storybooks, and research-backed tools that make everyday moments more meaningful.



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# Executive Summary

The California Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CA MTSS) Framework provides a comprehensive approach to improving academic, behavioral, social, and mental health outcomes for all students through an integrated system of support. Organized across five domains, including Whole Child, Administrative Leadership, Integrated Supports, Family and Community Engagement, and Inclusive Policy Structures and Practices, the framework emphasizes equitable access, inclusive learning environments, collaborative leadership, continuous improvement, and strong partnerships among schools, families, and communities.

**Whole Child Domain:** CA MTSS emphasizes universal academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health supports that address the needs of the whole child. Harmony supports this work through explicit instruction, Everyday Practices, cross-curricular applications, and professional learning pathways that help educators foster belonging, strengthen relationships, develop intra- and interpersonal competencies, and create welcoming learning environments that support student success

**Administrative Leadership Domain:** CA MTSS recognizes the importance of strong leadership and educator support systems to sustain implementation and continuous improvement. Sanford Harmony supports school and district leaders through implementation services, professional learning, leadership development opportunities, implementation coaching, and data resources that help build educator capacity and strengthen schoolwide implementation efforts.

**Integrated Supports Domain:** CA MTSS promotes organizational structures and school cultures that ensure inclusive access and support for all learners. Sanford Harmony contributes to these goals by providing flexible instructional resources, relationship-centered classroom practices, partnership resources, and professional learning that help schools establish positive cultures where students feel connected, valued, and supported. A core piece of Sanford Harmony includes disability education and universal design for learning principles within the Harmony Curriculum.

**Family and Community Domain:** CA MTSS highlights the importance of meaningful family and community partnerships in supporting student success. Sanford Harmony extends learning beyond the classroom through School – to Home- Connection Letters, Harmony at Home resources, out-of-school-time programming, webinars, and opportunities for educator and stakeholder engagement that strengthen connections between schools, families, and communities.

**Inclusive Policy Structure and Practice Domain :** CA MTSS encourages districts and schools to establish systems that support alignment, sustainability, and continuous improvement. Sanford Harmony supports these efforts through alignment guides, implementation planning, professional learning, ongoing consultation, and implementation data tools that help leaders integrate Harmony resources and supports within broader district initiatives and MTSS frameworks.

The following crosswalk identifies specific Sanford Harmony resources and supports that advance the goals of the California Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Through explicit instruction, relationship-centered practices, professional learning, implementation services, leadership supports, and family engagement resources, Harmony helps schools and districts build welcoming and supportive environments that promote the success of the whole child.

# Whole Child Domain

| FEATURE 1.1 – Inclusive Academic Instruction<br>**Schools provide evidence-based academic instruction within a multi-tiered system that includes Universal Design for Learning (UDL), culturally responsive teaching, collaborative teams, and supports for all learners.** | |
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| **CA MTSS Feature** | **Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports** |
| **Inclusive Academic Instruction** | **Lessons & Activities** explicitly teach relationship, communication, and problem-solving skills that support student engagement and academic success.<br><br>**Cross-Curricular Applications of Unit Themes** demonstrate how skills can be reinforced across academic content areas through instructional strategies and content-specific examples that strengthen the connection between relationship skills and academic learning.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** builds educator capacity to create inclusive learning environments through research-informed instructional practices that strengthen student engagement, nurture a sense of belonging, and support academic success. |
| **FEATURE 1.2 – Inclusive Behavior Instruction**<br>**Schools implement evidence-based behavior supports through a continuum of universal, supplemental, and intensified behavioral supports.** | |
| **Inclusive Behavior Instruction** | **Everyday Practices,** including **Meet Up, Buddy Up, and Harmony Goals,** proactively teach, model, and reinforce relationship skills and positive behaviors that help students build strong relationships, work collaboratively, resolve conflicts constructively, and contribute to a positive classroom community.<br><br>**Lessons & Activities** provide explicit instruction and opportunities to practice the relationship skills and personal competencies that support positive behavior, responsible decision-making, and student success. Flexible implementation allows educators to use Harmony resources in whole-group, small-group, or individual settings to support diverse student needs.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** provides multiple Learning Pathways designed to build educator capacity through research-informed instructional practices. Pathways such as **Creating Affirming Learning Environments and Differentiation Strategies to Support All Learning** include modules focused on proactive classroom practices, positive behavior, differentiation, and supporting diverse learner needs while fostering engagement and belonging. |

**FEATURE 1.3 – Inclusive Transformative Social-Emotional Instruction & Mental Health Supports**
**Schools provide a continuum of evidence-based practices that support students' social-emotional development and mental health through trauma-informed practices, resilience, and integrated supports.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Inclusive Transformative Social-Emotional Instruction and Mental Health Support** | **Lessons & Activities** help students develop relationship skills, emotional awareness, self-regulation, and responsible decision-making that contribute to healthy relationships, resilience, and overall well-being.<br><br>**Everyday Practices**, including **Meet Up, Buddy Up, and Harmony Goals**, foster positive relationships, strengthen classroom connections, and nurture a sense of belonging that supports student well-being.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** builds educator capacity to create affirming, relationship-centered learning environments through research-informed instructional practices. **The Wrap Around Supports Learning Pathway** includes modules addressing trauma-informed practices, brain awareness, resilience, substance abuse prevention, bullying, and family engagement. |

# Administrative Leadership Domain

**FEATURE 2.1 – Strong & Engaged Site Leadership**
**School leaders actively guide implementation by developing a shared vision, engaging with instructional practices, creating collaborative leadership structures, providing opportunities for stakeholder contribution, and using data to inform decisions.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Strong & Engaged Site Leadership** | **Harmony Implementation Services** provide ongoing support to district, school, and organization leaders. Implementation Specialists partner with leaders to establish implementation goals, facilitate product training, and provide check-ins throughout the year to answer questions and support implementation. Additional live online and onsite training is available to address local priorities and needs.<br><br>**Harmony Plus Data Dashboard** provides leadership teams with access to implementation data to help monitor resource use and inform implementation planning and support continuous improvement.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** builds educator and leadership capacity through research-informed learning pathways focused on affirming learning environments, instructional practice, differentiation, educator well-being, partnerships, wrap-around supports, and strong implementation starts.<br><br>**Harmony Leader Certificate** equips aspiring and current leaders with tools to implement schoolwide, relationship-driven social, emotional, and academic development (SEAD) practices that foster belonging, trust, and educational growth. Credits apply toward a National University Sanford College of Education doctoral degree program. |

**FEATURE 2.2 – Strong Educator Support System**
**Schools provide educators with ongoing opportunities for professional learning, instructional coaching, reflection, collaboration, and data-informed improvement to strengthen professional practice.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Strong Educator Support System** | **Harmony Professional Learning** provides flexible, research-informed learning opportunities that support ongoing educator growth. On-demand modules include resources such as **Note Taking Guides** for individual reflection and **Coaching Guides** that help instructional leaders support educators as they apply new learning. Resources can be used independently, with coaching support, or collaboratively within Professional Learning Communities.<br><br>**The Harmony Self-Reflection and Coaching Tool** and the **Implementation Rubric** provide a strengths-based structure for educators and instructional leaders to reflect on implementation, identify areas for growth, set goals, and guide coaching and continuous improvement.<br><br>**Harmony Implementation Services** extend professional learning through ongoing partnership with Implementation Specialists, product training, check-ins, and additional live online or onsite learning opportunities based on district and school needs. |

# Integrated Supports Domain

**FEATURE 3.1 – Organizational Structure**
**Schools create inclusive organizational structures that promote access and participation for all students, use non-categorical practices, and provide opportunities for collaborative learning and peer support.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Strong & Engaged Site Leadership** | **Lessons & Activities** provide relationship-centered instruction for all students, helping children develop the skills to communicate, collaborate, appreciate differences, and build positive relationships. Flexible resources can be used in whole-group, small-group, and individual settings to support diverse learners.<br><br>**Everyday Practices** are intentional routines and activities that provide ongoing opportunities for students to apply relationship skills through experiences that build connection, belonging, and community over time. Supported by **Quick Connection Cards**, these practices help students connect, communicate, and work together. Together with **Lessons & Activities,** they help schools create inclusive cultures where students feel seen, heard, valued, and supported.<br><br>**Inclusive Partnerships and Resources** extend Harmony's commitment to access and participation. Quick Connection Cards developed in collaboration with **Special Olympics** support inclusive youth leadership and relationships among youth with and without intellectual disabilities. Harmony's collaboration with the Stephen J. Wampler Foundation further supports disability understanding and inclusive learning communities. |

**FEATURE 3.2 – Strong & Positive School Culture**
**Schools foster collaborative relationships and a shared vision while creating inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive environments that respect diversity and incorporate trauma-informed and restorative practices.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Strong & Positive School Culture** | **Everyday Practices** provide consistent, relationship-centered routines that strengthen connections among students and educators and build community over time. When implemented across classrooms and learning environments, these shared practices help create a culture of belonging where students feel seen, valued, connected, and supported.<br><br>**Lessons & Activities** help students develop and practice the skills needed to build healthy relationships, appreciate diverse perspectives and experiences, communicate effectively, work collaboratively, and navigate conflict constructively.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** includes Learning Pathways that help educators create affirming, inclusive, and relationship-centered learning environments. **Creating Affirming Learning Environments, Differentiation Strategies to Support All Learning,** and **Wrap Around Supports** include modules focused on restorative and trauma-informed practices, cultural competence, affirming differences, addressing bias, and supporting diverse learners. |

# Family and Community Domain

**FEATURE 4.1 – Trusting Family Partnerships**
**Schools build trusting partnerships with students and families through meaningful engagement, opportunities for input and participation, ongoing home-school communication, and access to information and resources.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
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| **Strong & Engaged Site Leadership** | **Family Engagement Resources** help schools strengthen home-school connections and extend relationship-building and skill development beyond the classroom. **Home-to-School Connection Letters** keep families informed about what students are learning and provide opportunities to continue conversations and reinforce skills at home.<br><br>**The Harmony at Home** app and kits offer additional ways for families to engage through activities, adapted Lessons & Activities, Quick Connection Cards, storybooks, and other resources designed for use together at home. Together these resources help families understand, participate in, and reinforce the learning experiences taking place at school.<br><br>**Harmony Professional Learning** includes the **Wrap Around Supports** Learning Pathway with modules focused on family engagement, addressing barriers to participation, and effective parent communication to help educators strengthen home-school relationships. |

**FEATURE 4.2 – Trusting Community Partnerships**
**Schools develop reciprocal relationships with community partners by identifying shared interests and goals, creating opportunities for participation, and inviting community members to contribute their knowledge and expertise.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
|---|---|
| **Trusting Community Partnerships** | **Out-of-School Time Resources** extend Harmony beyond the school day, providing relationship-centered Lessons & Activities and Everyday Practices designed for after-school programs and community-based organizations. These resources help create consistency in relationship skills, language, and practices students experience across school and out-of-school settings.<br><br>**Harmony Webinars** provide ongoing learning opportunities on topics related to healthy learning, offering practical strategies that can be used across schools, communities, and families.<br><br>**Harmony's Education Advisory Group** brings together practicing PreK–12 teachers, school administrators, school counselors, support specialists, and out-of-school-time leaders who have experience with Harmony resources. Through ongoing input and feedback, members contribute practitioner perspectives that help inform Harmony's resources and supports. |

# Inclusive Policy Structure and Practice Domain

**FEATURE 5.1 – Strong LEA/School Relationship Features**
**LEAs and schools develop collaborative structures that support implementation through district and school teams, professional learning, communication, barrier identification, and ongoing review of outcomes.**

| CA MTSS Feature | Sanford Harmony Resources & Supports |
|---|---|
| **Strong LEA/School Relationship Features** | **Harmony Implementation Services** support collaboration between district and school leaders throughout implementation. Implementation Specialists partner with leaders to establish goals, facilitate training, maintain ongoing communication, address implementation needs and barriers, and provide continued support throughout the year.<br><br>**Harmony Training and Professional Learning** support districtwide capacity building through product training, on-demand learning, and additional live online or onsite professional learning tailored to district and organizational needs.<br><br>**Harmony Plus Data Dashboard** provides district and school leaders with implementation data to help teams monitor resource use, identify implementation trends, and inform ongoing planning and continuous improvement. |
| **FEATURE 5.2 – LEA Policy Framework Features**<br>**LEAs establish structures that connect multiple initiatives, use data to guide decisions, select research-based practices, review and revise policies, and support the expansion of effective practices across schools and districts.** | |
| **LEA Policy Framework** | **Harmony Alignment Guides** help district leaders connect Harmony with broader educational priorities and established frameworks, such as PBIS and ASCA, supporting integration within existing systems rather than creating a stand-alone initiative.<br><br>**Harmony Implementation Services** support district leaders in developing implementation goals, identifying strategies for districtwide use, and expanding consistent practices across schools. Ongoing partnership with an Implementation Specialist provides support as districts plan, implement, and strengthen Harmony over time.<br><br>**Harmony Plus Data Dashboard** provides implementation data that district leaders can use alongside other local data to monitor resource use, inform decisions, and support continuous improvement. |