



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Our Research + Outcomes

The foundation of Wayfinder’s K-12 curriculum is based on rigorous research on the concepts of belonging and purpose. Our evidence-based lessons include corresponding research within facilitation guides.

Stanford University researcher Dr. Heather Malin completed an independent evaluation of Wayfinder curriculum with independent high school students. This evaluation was conducted to learn about the effect of the Wayfinder curriculum on student growth in purpose and related social-emotional capacities. To do so, Dr. Malin administered surveys to the students who participated in the Wayfinder curriculum and to a control group at the same school, before and after the program.



Research-Backed Curriculum

STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE BELONGING

- Have greater levels of self-esteem and self-efficacy
- Feel a stronger sense of self-identity
- Manage stress better
- Experience greater satisfaction, happiness and optimism

STUDENTS WHO FEEL PURPOSEFUL

- Experience positive identity formation
- Achieve higher grade point averages
- Show higher levels of prosocial behavior
- Hold positive academic self-identities

Key Results

Overall, students who completed the Wayfinder program experienced many positive outcomes, including:

1.5x

Increase in key measures of **Purpose**.

58%

of students experienced stronger measures of **Belonging**.

104%

improvement in **Social Awareness** and positive social behaviors.

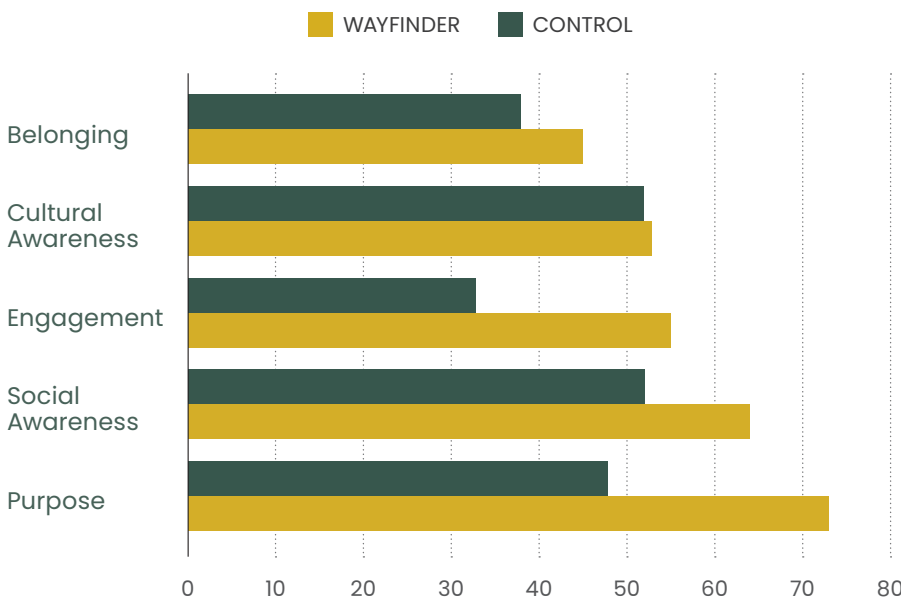
Results of the Study

Wayfinder students scored higher than the control group in all measures, demonstrating statistically significant improvement on four of the six measures.

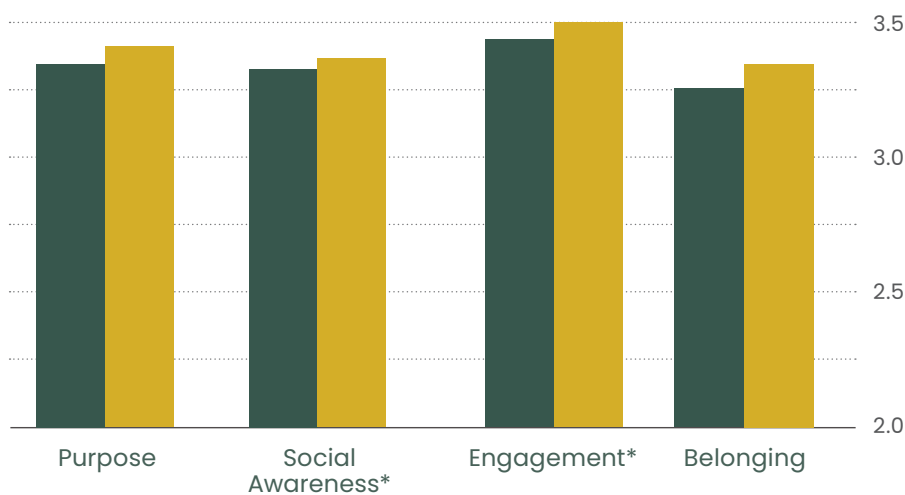
- **Purpose:** Sense of purpose, goal commitment, beyond-the-self motivation.
- **Engagement:** Interest in and enthusiasm for their classes.
- **Social Awareness:** Positive social behaviors such as listening to others and respecting others' views.

These findings provide promising evidence that the Wayfinder curriculum is effective at developing fundamental SEL capacities that have been shown to set students on a purposeful life path as they navigate challenges and transition into adulthood.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO IMPROVED



POST TEST SCORES (CONTROLLING FOR PRE-TEST)



Adjusted Post-test scores of Wayfinder and Control Groups (*significant)

The study was completed at an **independent Catholic High School** in California with a **diverse student population.**

38%

of participants identified as students of color

137

Students participated in the study

