



## Marin County Mid-Year Educator Feedback February 2021

### Introduction

Changing Perspectives ([www.ChangingPerspectivesNow.org](http://www.ChangingPerspectivesNow.org)) is a national, nonprofit organization that promotes social-emotional learning (SEL) to cultivate inclusive and equitable learning communities. Changing Perspectives engages all members in a school community to advance their thinking and practice around SEL, disability awareness, equity, and inclusion. Schools that partner with Changing Perspectives are offered an à la carte menu of options from which to choose the services that best meet their learning communities' needs. These resources include customizable curriculum materials, virtual/onsite coaching, goal-driven professional development, paraprofessional training, parent programs, and more.

This school year has been unprecedented in many ways. From COVID-19 to intense divisiveness around race, civil rights, politics, climate crises, and other issues. Schools are monitoring the impacts of the universal trauma of these matters on students of all ages. Many educators are having to teach in a way that they have not had to before. Every state, district, and school has addressed physical safety measures in their own ways. Therefore, when evaluating the data in this report, it is important to recognize that educators are working with limited bandwidth and in a variety of different situations.

This research report presents findings from a mid-year educator survey that was administrated in January of 2021. The survey was sent to 26 educators working in 17 schools who gained access to Changing Perspectives's resources and supports between September and November of 2020. Respondents were asked to rate their experiences with the program thus far in the school year. Given the program's highly customizable approach to design and classroom implementation, each educator's instructional choices and style shapes and influences student experiences and students' subsequent feedback about the program.

### Sample Size

Table 1 lists the 17 Marin County partner schools that worked with Changing Perspectives between September 2020 and December 2020. *Please note that our school partners list continues to grow and that the final year-end data report may include additional schools.*

**Table 1. Participating Schools**

<b>School</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>District</b>
Bolinas-Stinson Union School District	K-8	Bolinas-Stinson
Lagunitas School	K-8	Lagunitas School District
Nicasio School	K-8	Nicasio School District
Ross School	K-8	Ross School District
Bahia Vista Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Coleman Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Glenwood Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
James B Davidson Middle	6-8	San Rafael City Schools
Laurel Dell Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Miller Creek Middle School	6-8	San Rafael City Schools
San Pedro Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Strawberry Point (MCOE Classroom)	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Sun Valley Elementary	K-5	San Rafael City Schools
Venetia Valley School	K-8	San Rafael City Schools
Bodega Bay Elementary	K-5	Shoreline Unified School District
Tomales Elementary	K-8	Shoreline Unified School District
West Marin School	2-8	Shoreline Unified School District

Based on current school enrollment data, Changing Perspective has impacted the lives of roughly 6,000 students in these schools.

Data was collected from eight educators (31% return), representing 10 of the 17 schools (59%) in the county during this evaluation period. Some educators noted that they did not feel like they had used enough Changing Perspectives materials at this point in the school year to complete the survey.

### **Findings**

Overall, survey respondents were enthusiastic about the positive impacts Changing Perspectives has had on their students, classrooms, and own professional skills development. The survey asked them to reflect on four aspects of the program:

1. The impacts Changing Perspectives has in helping to mitigate the unique trauma students have experienced this school year.
2. Their own professional practice as an educator in supporting the general social-emotional well-being of their students.
3. Students' engagement with Changing Perspectives.
4. Thoughts on future work with Changing Perspectives next year.

**Question:** The 2020-2021 school year has been unprecedented in many ways. Students may have experienced a variety of traumatic experiences. This has resulted in higher than usual needs in supporting their social and emotional well-being. Based on your current use of Changing Perspectives, rate the helpfulness of Changing Perspectives resources in supporting the needs of your students.

**Table 2. Current School Year Impacts**

Survey/Population	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Moderately Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not Helpful
N=8	25% (2)	37.5% (3)	37.5% (3)	0	0

An educator shared: “In this virtual setting, giving children prompts to discuss and engage with each other is important.”

**Question:** Has Changing Perspectives improved your knowledge, skills, and interventions to support your students?

**Table 3. Professional Practice**

Survey/Population	Yes	No
N=8	75% (6)	25% (2)

Educators wrote:

- “I am able to better understand the emotional needs of each development stage in K-8 students.”
- “[The program has really helped me] by providing quick and easy mini-lessons that align with CASEL.”

**Question:** Overall, how would you rate the educational value of Changing Perspectives?

**Table 4. Educational Value**

Survey/Population	Excellent	Good	Fair
N=8	50% (4)	50% (4)	0

One educator wrote: “I think this is a great program with wonderful curriculum ideas.”

**Question:** How engaged were your students in participating in Changing Perspectives activities?

**Table 5. Student Engagement**

Survey/Population	Extremely Engaged	Very Engaged	Moderately Engaged	Slightly Engaged	Not Engaged
N=7	0	57.1% (4)	14.3% (1)	14.3% (1)	14.3% (1)

Educators were pleased about the opportunities for student engagement:

- “Changing Perspectives has so much to offer and it is broken down simplistically. It is user-friendly and I've had a lot of success with getting students to open up, even if they wouldn't have previously done so.”
- “The SEL books are perfect for each developmental level.”
- “I could use the same video across multiple grade levels. I can send pre-written information without putting any effort in myself.”

**Question:** Are you interested in continuing Changing Perspectives next year?

**Table 6. Use of Program Next Year**

Survey/Population	Yes	No
N=7	86% (6)	14% (1)

## Conclusions

Overall, from the small sample size, educators have found having access to Changing Perspectives curriculum resources and supports to be helpful during this unpredictable and challenging academic year. A majority of respondents note that they would like to continue using Changing Perspectives next year. With nearly double the number of schools in Marin partnering with Changing Perspectives compared to last year, it is expected that the sample size of respondents for the end of year survey will be much higher than this mid-year data collection process.

It should be noted that, in many partner schools, a school counselor or equivalent is sharing resources with other educators who are engaging with students directly. Therefore, this data only represents a small slice of the full impacts Changing Perspectives resources are having on student populations. It is inspiring and exciting to see that, even in the midst of a year that is as chaotic as 2020-2021 has been, educators are still committed to ensuring that their students' social-emotional well-being is being prioritized.