



Dear CASEL community,

It is with deep sadness that we share news of the passing of Dr. Roger P. Weissberg, CASEL's much loved and admired Chief Knowledge Officer and Board Vice Chair.

As one of the earliest supporters and leading voices for SEL, Roger was co-founder of CASEL and a mentor, colleague, collaborator, and friend to many in the SEL field for more than 25 years. His loss to CASEL and the SEL field is profound. He will be greatly missed by both those who knew him personally and those who have felt the impact of his life's work.

Roger passed away Sunday, September 5th, after a more than three-year battle with cancer. He has shared his remarkable health journey openly and warmly, crediting the competencies and values that social and emotional learning taught him for his fortitude, and modeling for all of us incredible strength, grace, and self-compassion. You can read how Roger described the power of SEL during his health challenges [in this beautifully written article](#), published in Maria Shriver's *Sunday Paper*.



Anyone who worked with Roger knows CASEL was his passion, his focus, and his joy. He was so proud to see SEL champions across the world working to advance evidence-based SEL to promote the healthy development of all children. This was his true North. In his own words:

“When one is diagnosed with a terminal illness, a key decision involves how to spend your final phase of life. I will finish my life as I have lived it for 69 years – helping to make the world a better place by sharing scholarship and love.”

At CASEL, we will continue to honor and celebrate Roger throughout all of our work. This fall, we will be launching the [CASEL Weissberg Scholars Program for Innovators of Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning](#) in his honor to inspire the next generation of innovators who will strengthen the vision of social and emotional learning. This learning community of scholars will be one of many lasting legacies that will continue Roger's brilliant and unique approach to research and collaboration.

We invite you to visit our memorial webpage at <https://casel.org/in-loving-memory-of-roger-weissberg/> and read a personal reflection on Roger at <https://unite.us/thoughts/roger-uniter>.

Please join us in celebrating Roger by continuing to champion SEL in your communities.

With deep gratitude,

Karen Niemi and Tim Shriver
CASEL CEO & President, CASEL Co-Founder & Board Chair