

“We love Rhithm at LISD because it allows the students to share things on a more personal level comfortably with their teachers without actually having to say anything at all”

LISD Social Emotional Learning Facilitator

(<https://seltx.digitellinc.com/seltx/live/7/page/59?entryId=70>)

Rhithm App

When did Rhithm Launch?

- “Since launching the Rhithm App™ (on January 8, 2020) ...”
(<https://workingincontent.com/jobs/rhithm-content-marketing-manager>)

What is Rhithm

- “This is Social Emotional Learning, School-Based Mental Health, and Human Beings in Rhithm.”
(<https://rhithm.app/>)
- “We’re an Emotional Health (SAAS) brand” (<https://workingincontent.com/jobs/rhithm-content-marketing-manager>)

What is the purpose of the Rhithm app?

- It performs “A Simple, Robust, "Emojified" Biopsychosocial Assessment”
(<https://rhithm.app/assessment/>)
- TRACK FIDELITY AND USAGE - Be empowered to understand how, and at what level of fidelity, your Rhithm initiative is being implemented. Use clever filters like time of day/day of week to see how different variables impact usage and learning readiness. (<https://rhithm.app/insights/>)

Biopsychosocial Assessments

What is the medical definition of biopsychosocial?

- biopsychosocial - of, relating to, or concerned with the biological, psychological, and social aspects in contrast to the strictly biomedical aspects of disease (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/medical/biopsychosocial>)
- What is a biopsychosocial assessment – A biopsychosocial assessment is a set of questions designed to obtain information about a patient's physical, psychological, and social issues.
(<https://www.infobloom.com/what-is-a-biopsychosocial-assessment.htm>)

What is a purpose of a biopsychosocial assessment?

- Health and Behavior Assessment procedures are used to identify the psychological, behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and social factors important to the prevention, treatment or management of physical health problems. The focus of the assessment is not on mental health but on the biopsychosocial factors important to physical health problems and treatments.
- Health and Behavior Intervention procedures are used to modify the psychological, behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and social factors directly affecting the patient's physiological functioning, health and wellbeing, or specific disease-related problems. (<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=52434>)

Social Emotion Learning

What is the main objective of SEL?

- "In light of our biases (we all have them!), consider how comfortable you are talking about race, racism, or other “isms” in the classroom. Whatever your level of comfort, these simple sentence stems from Teaching Tolerance may prompt you to reflect: “The hard part of talking about race/racism is...” and “The beneficial part of talking about race/racism is...”

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_take_sel_to_the_next_level_at_your_school)

- Indoctrination is the central goal of SEL. Students must be taught to adopt the right attitudes and behaviors to become “change agents,” or activists primarily for social justice. This will come about by teaching children to “understand systemic or structural explanations for different outcomes” and “assess personal beliefs and biases.” This is not at all the same as teaching children to be nice to each other or cultivate morality. One goal of SEL is to divert all educational resources toward political activism and indoctrination – see “Biopsychosocial Assessments - What is a purpose of a biopsychosocial assessment” on page 1
- "Why is youth civic participation critical for the future of our democracy? How can donors help support civics education?" (<https://givingcompass.org/article/how-social-emotional-learning-can-foster-positive-civic-participation/>)
- In February, Robbins wrote at the Federalist that SEL champions such as the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) are now “brazenly trumpeting an even more troubling aspect of SEL: the opportunity to turn impressionable students into leftist activists.” She observed that CASEL CEO Karen Niemi announced in December her company “has revised its definition of and framework for ‘socio-emotional learning’ to highlight the value of SEL as a weapon for social justice.” “Woke-speak pervades the new direction,” Robbins asserted. “In contrast to the previous fairly anodyne definition of SEL, the new one emphasizes student ‘identities’ and ‘marginalization,’ ‘equity,’ ‘just communities,’ and the ‘collective’ rather than the individual. (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.26.htm>)

Parental Permission

Does Texas for psychological examination and assessments of children in public school? **NO**

- TITLE 2. PUBLIC EDUCATION - SUBTITLE E. STUDENTS AND PARENTS - CHAPTER 26. PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Sec. 26.009. CONSENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES. (a) An employee of a school district must obtain the written consent of a child's parent before the employee may:

- (1) conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment, unless the examination, test, or treatment is required under Section 38.004 or state or federal law regarding requirements for special education

Can children under 13 use Rhithm without express consent of a parent? **NO**

- Note about Children: As required by applicable law and our Terms of Service, children under the age of 13 in the U.S. (and a higher age if required by the applicable law in another country) may only use our Services with the express prior consent of a parent or legal guardian. If you are a Teacher, School Administrator, or District Administrator **you must obtain all necessary parental consents before allowing students to use the Services.** (https://rhithm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhithm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)

Is there a parental component of the Rhithm App? **NO**

- This is the only option for parents. “Parents: To review your Child User’s data you must request the information from your child’s teacher or school.” (https://rhithm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhithm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)
- To date, there is no parental component to Rhithm where parents can see in real time the data collected and analyzed on their children. If the teachers and administrators can see in real time the

student's data that has been collected and analyzed in real time, why can't parents see their students data in real time?

Rhythm Content

What is the content in Rhythm?

- CASEL-Aligned Activities Library, quick & immediate interventions, activities, and lessons (<https://rhythm.app/>)

What is CASEL?

- Our Mission and Work - The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been a leader of the SEL movement since first introducing the term more than two decades ago. (<https://casel.org/about-us/our-mission-work/>)
- Does CASEL promote Critical Pedagogy Theory - Developing and Refining Transformative SEL toward Equity - Enhancing and foregrounding social and emotional competencies needed for civic engagement and social change, such as reflecting on personal and social identities, examining prejudices and biases, interrogating social norms, disrupting and resisting inequities, and co-constructing equitable and just solutions. (<https://casel.org/fundamentals-of-sel/how-does-sel-support-educational-equity-and-excellence/transformative-sel/>)

Who is the CEO of CASEL?

- Karen Niemi, CEO - CASEL's president and CEO, Karen Niemi, advocated that SEL should be used to favor certain students over others primarily because of their race. The CEO concluded, "We see SEL as a tool for anti-racism." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPWrnBA2274&list=PLM3PYurzmKsBDCoQ-eoqL9ODbpbZ-3kbA>)
- "While SEL alone will not solve the deep-seated inequities in the education system, it can help adults and students build more meaningful relationships and develop knowledge, skills and mindsets to interrupt inequitable policies and practices, create more inclusive learning environments and nurture the interests and assets of all individuals" (<https://www.the74million.org/article/niemi-casel-is-updating-the-most-widely-recognized-definition-of-social-emotional-learning-heres-why/>)

Rhythm Data

Who is being tracked in Rhythm?

- Students and Teachers - See quickly which students and teachers are entering any emoji most. (<https://rhythm.app/insights/>)

What data is tracked by Rhythm?

- Student, Teachers, School Administrators and District Administrators - metadata, user content, name, email address, student ID, password, assessment data, usage information, School and Classroom enrollment, Classlink SourcedID or CleverID, Demographic information, reports of their current mental, emotional, energy, physical, and social states and custom comments (https://rhythm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhythm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)

Who can see the data in real time?

- Not Parents
- Teachers, School Administrators, District Administrators (https://rhythm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhythm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)

How is the data being used?

- Watch assessment data come in, in real time, and keep a finger on the pulse of your classrooms. Leverage an array of filters on our intuitive dashboards to gain actionable insights and understand trends in students, in classrooms, in schools and in districts as a whole. (<https://rhithm.app/>)
- If you measure something, measure social-emotional well-being—multiple times a day—for teachers and students. This is not difficult; there are inexpensive tools that can be used to do it. I personally like Rhithm (<https://rhithm.app>). Constantly and continuously check in on the health of the teacher and student team. (<https://www.languagemagazine.com/2020/10/16/why-we-need-to-support-teachers-now/>)

Does Rhithm share data to third parties? **YES**

- They only state they do not share for marketing purposes. Not all purposes.
- Rhithm does not share your Personal Information with third parties for their **marketing purposes** in compliance with all applicable laws. (<https://rhithm.app/privacypolicy/>)
- Rhithm will assess any third-party relationships we have as it relates to their Data Collection Practices, Advertising to Students, Data Security, etc and ensure they are in alignment with our internal practices. (https://rhithm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhithm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)
- We may work with learning management systems that provide us with a platform to host our application. If that is the case, then personal information may be stored on the learning management system's server. (<https://rhithm.app/privacypolicy/>)
- To create anonymous data for analytics. We may make information anonymous by excluding information that makes it personally identifiable to you and use that anonymous data for our lawful business purposes. We use your personal information as we believe necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws, lawful requests, and legal process, such as to respond to subpoenas or requests from government authorities. Rhithm may share non-Personal Information,
- such as aggregate or de-identified user statistics, demographic information and Usage
- Information with third parties. (https://rhithm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhithm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)

Where is the data kept?

- On Rhithm Servers. Rhithm takes commercially reasonable technical, physical, and administrative security measures designed to protect the Personal Information. Please note that no method of transmission over the Internet, or method of electronic storage, is completely secure.
- You further agree that Rhithm has no obligation to delete aggregated or de-identified information. Rhithm may retain and use aggregated and de-identified information for any purpose consistent with laws and regulations. (https://rhithm.app/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Rhithm-Inc_Privacy-Policy_02.15.21-1.pdf)

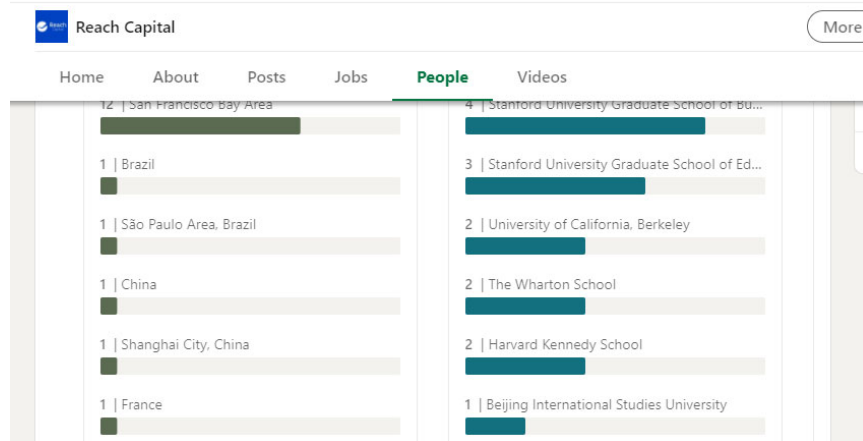
Rhithm Ownership

Who owns Rhithm?

- Reach Captial III (<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-01-15-us-edtech-investments-peak-again-with-1-45-billion-raised-in-2018>)
 - Goldman Sachs and Sesame Workshop (<https://techcrunch.com/2021/02/11/reach-capital-fund-3/>)
 - SJF Ventures, Red House Education, and Edovate Capital

Does Reach III have ties to China or employees in China?

- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/reach-capital/people/>



- Tony Wan <https://www.reachcapital.com/team/#team-12> English Teacher-Summer Service and Learning Program in Rural China-Dates Jun 2006 – Present-Pilot program at Tsinghua University designed to improve the English speaking and comprehension abilities of teachers and students in underdeveloped rural counties. Worked with local officials and teachers in Inner Mongolia to develop lesson plans and develop strategies to improve the quality of English education. (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tonycwan/>)
- China can pump all the money it wants into private Venture Capital Firms (<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/22/china-us-tech-companies-cfius-572413>, <https://breakingdefense.com/2021/04/dod-pushes-back-against-prc-money-in-us-supply-base/>)
- Chinese citizens swear allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party and they are to serve the interested of the CCP defense department above all things. That means if China has any funds in this venture capital group or employees working for this group, they will be able to access the data and create profiles of every student using Rhithm. (<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/crime/2021/10/19/prosecutor-chinese-government-center-ge-aviation-espionage-case/8527240002/>, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/28/politics/harvard-professor-chinese-nationals-arrest-espionage/index.html>)