



## THE IVYMOUNT SOCIAL COGNITION INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE (IvySCIP)

### What is the IvySCIP?

The *IvyMount Social Cognition Instructional Package (IvySCIP)* offers comprehensive, web-based support for social and emotional learning in elementary and middle school-aged students with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders. The IvySCIP is being developed by IvyMount School and 3C Institute with fiscal support from the U.S. Department of Education. Creators of the IvySCIP bring a wealth of expertise in autism spectrum disorders and social learning technologies to this innovative project.



### Why is social and emotional learning so important?

Over the past few decades, there has been increasing emphasis placed on the importance of children's social and emotional learning (SEL). Studies show that an emphasis on SEL results not only in improved behavior and social interactions, but also improved rates of academic success. Recent legislation such as the *Academic, Social and Emotional Learning Act of 2015* reflects growing recognition that SEL instruction should be an integral part of education from preschool through high school.

### How does SEL impact students with high-functioning autism?

Although SEL plays a significant role in the academic success of *all* children, curriculum and instruction emphasizing SEL is especially critical for children on the autism spectrum, most of whom – including those with high-functioning autism – demonstrate profound social cognition deficits such as self- and other-awareness, emotion regulation, perspective taking, flexibility, joint attention, and problem solving. Failure to effectively address these SEL challenges contributes to almost universally poor post-school outcomes for this population, including high rates of unemployment, lack of independent living, social isolation, and mental health problems including anxiety and depression.

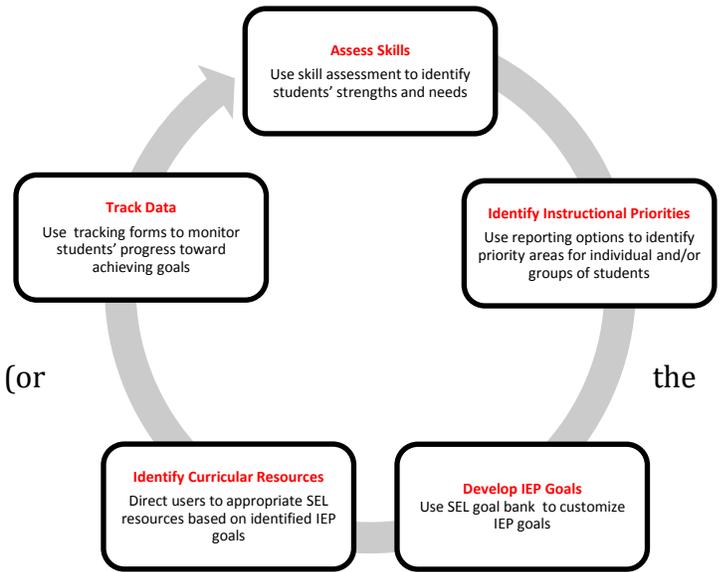
### How does the IvySCIP fill a gap within the field?

The IvySCIP is designed in response to a clear need within the field for high-quality, user-friendly SEL resources. Materials for supporting the SEL needs of students with high-functioning autism are extremely limited, students' needs are often intense, and teachers and related service providers are frequently overwhelmed by how to begin the complex process of planning for individual and group SEL instruction.

### How will the IvySCIP support educators?

The IvySCIP addresses each of these concerns. Not only will the IvySCIP help educators assess students' SEL strengths and needs, it will also help identify instructional priorities, set meaningful IEP goals, identify evidence-based curricular materials for social skills groups, and keep track of data collection. Furthermore, it is the only product on the market that is accessible via an easy-to-use electronic format, and will do all of the following:

- Focus on children with high-functioning autism;
- support progress monitoring over time;
- take a skills-based approach as opposed to the just focusing on the elimination of negative behaviors;
- take a social cognitive approach by teaching both discrete social behaviors (or the “how” of SEL) *and* the underlying social purpose of these behaviors (or “why” of SEL);
- promote data-based decision making;
- help educators prioritize; and
- aggregate scores across students.



### Who is currently supporting the development and testing of the IvySCIP?

In addition to receiving a highly competitive SBIR Award from the U.S. Department of Education to further develop and test the IvySCIP, our supporters include DC Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools, KIPP DC Charter Schools, Kennedy Krieger School at Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland National Capital Area Autism Speaks, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Children’s National Medical Center, Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF), the DC Association for Special Education (DCASE), the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), the Center for Applied Developmental Science and Neuroeducation at George Washington University, and nationally recognized experts in autism and SEL including Dr. Brenda Smith Myles, Dr. Peter Gerhardt, Dr. Scott Bellini, and Dr. Lauren Kenworthy. In response to recent pilot testing of the IvySCIP, feedback from 40+ users has been incredibly positive. The Ivymount Foundation and Eshel Street Foundation have both committed funds to support commercialization of the IvySCIP, and the Life Science Angels and SmartEd Tech have committed to helping us identify potential investors and/or selling our product.