

Inclusionary Practices and Systems: **SOCIAL NETWORKS**

WHAT IS A SOCIAL NETWORK?

Social networks refer to the peer groups to which a particular student belongs.

HOW DO WE MEASURE A SOCIAL NETWORK?

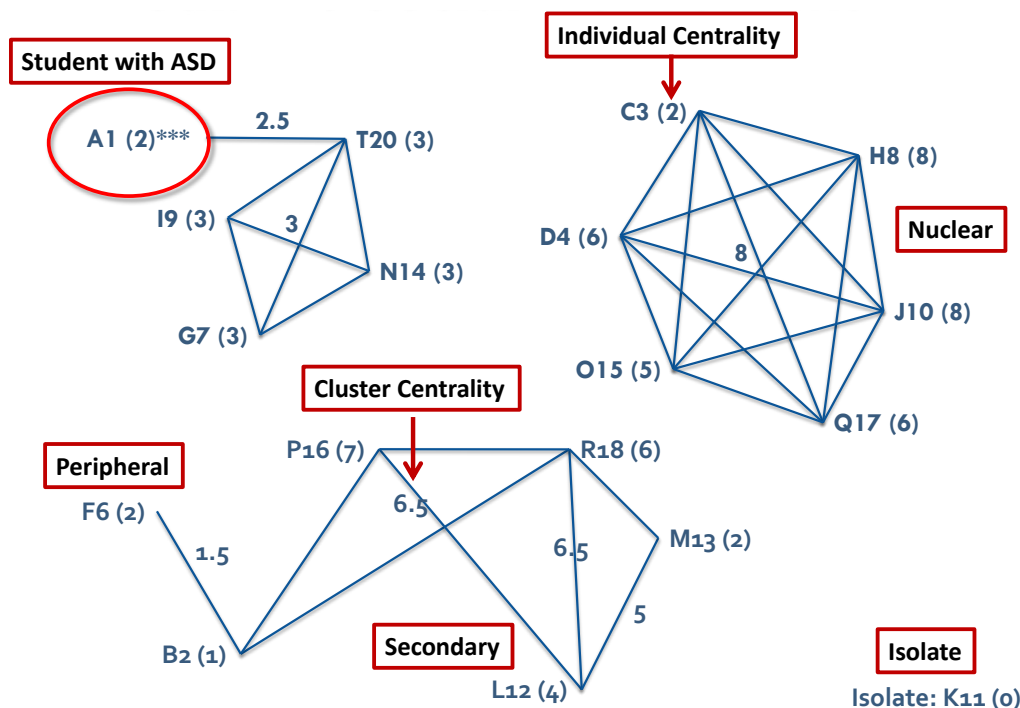
We administer a classroom-based survey using free recall (class lists/rosters, pictures, names, etc. are not provided in order to ensure the saliency of the nominated peer groups)

- Peer groups are as small as dyads and as large as the entire class

We ask each child in the same classroom to complete the survey (see below; 5-10 minutes)

- In the past, we have used this survey with preschool through high school students (Note: preschool children were individually interviewed, and the interviewer recorded their responses)
- Children are allowed to nominate themselves
- Children are reminded to include their classmates

Sample Social Network Map



HOW IS A SOCIAL NETWORK GENERATED?:

From the classroom-based survey, we gather two pieces of information:

- **Individual Centrality** – the number of nominations a child receives as part of any peer group
- **Cluster Centrality** – the average of two highest cluster members’ individual centrality

SOCIAL NETWORK CENTRALITY	INDIVIDUAL CENTRALITY	CLUSTER CENTRALITY
Nuclear (top 30% of the classroom)	High	High
Secondary (middle 40% of the classroom)	Medium	High or Medium
Secondary (middle 40% of the classroom)	High or Medium	Medium
Peripheral (bottom 30% of the classroom)	Low	Low, Medium, or High
Peripheral (bottom 30% of the classroom)	Low, Medium, or High	Low
Isolated	Any	Belongs to No Cluster

WHAT OTHER DATA ARE PROVIDED?:

The survey also provides information on the following:

- **Friendship Nominations** – the number of times a child was nominated as a “friend” by their classmates
- **Friendship Reciprocity** – whether the child’s nominated friend also selected them as a friend
- **Rejections** – the number of times a child was nominated as “someone other children do not like to hang out with”
- **Peer Connections** – the number of peer connections a child has in their classroom

FRIENDSHIPS SURVEY

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

DATE

SCHOOL NAME

TEACHER NAME

AGE

GRADE

GENDER IDENTITY:

Male Female Other

RACE/ETHNICITY:

Black White Asian Latino Multiple Other

1. **Are there any kids in your class that you like to hang out with? Who are they?**

(Use first names only; plus last initial if needed)

2. **Circle the names of the 3 kids you most like to hang out with.**

3. **Put a STAR * next to the name of the ONE kid you most like to hang out with.**

4. **Are there any kids in your class that you don't like to hang out with? Who are they?**

(Use first names only, plus last initial if needed)

5. **Are there kids in your class who like to hang out together? Who are they?**

Remember to think about Boys and Girls. Remember to put yourself if you hang out with a group.
Write the kids names and then draw a circle around each group!