



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 11, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors of Counseling, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, Counselors, Student Assistance Coordinators
From: AbdulSaleem Hasan, Ed.S., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services
Deadline: March 27, 2020

International SEL Day To Be Celebrated March 27

The New Jersey Department of Education invites school and district administrators, school board members, community partners, parents, and local police to participate in an international movement to celebrate the first inaugural International Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day on March 27, 2020.

In alignment with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), the NJDOE defines SEL as the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Research has found that sustained and comprehensive SEL programming has been found to positively impact academic achievement, social and emotional well-being, and classroom behavior.

In August of 2017, the New Jersey State Board of Education demonstrated its commitment to encouraging SEL in schools across the state by adopting [New Jersey's Social and Emotional Learning Competencies and Sub-Competencies](#). More recently, through a partnership with the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders and the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center, the NJDOE has developed and released the first of six [modules](#) to support schools and districts in their implementation of schoolwide SEL programming. Module 1 introduces its audience to the fundamentals of quality SEL programming and includes a self-assessment for educators interested in examining their own practices to identify opportunities for increasing attention on the social and emotional skills of their students.

International SEL Day offers the NJDOE and schools across New Jersey to share their commitment to SEL and raise awareness of the positive impacts associated with quality SEL programming. Please join us and many others in recognizing March 27, 2020 as International SEL Day. Below are resources for district and school officials to consider as they plan activities to commemorate the day:

- New Jersey was one of the first members of CASEL's Collaborating States Initiative. Through this initiative CASEL has developed quality resources that emphasize teaching activities to support the core competencies of SEL. This broad [resource](#) includes classroom activities appropriate for grades K-12, that specifically address each core competency.
- The ACT for Youth Center for Community Action (Act for Youth) connects research to practice in the areas of positive youth development and adolescent/young adult health. Act for Youth has developed a [SEL Toolkit](#), which includes videos and classroom resources specific to each of the nationally recognized SEL competencies for educators interested in implementing SEL in their classrooms.
- [The Nemours Children's Health System](#) offers many resources to promote positive health and learning outcomes for students in grades K-12. Within each subset of resources there is a specific focus student

personal health, which includes classroom resources for topics like conflict resolution, empathy, and self-esteem.

- [PBS Learning Media](#) has curated many videos, lesson plans, and interactive lessons that emphasize SEL. These resources may be most engaging and appropriate for Pre-K-5 classrooms.

If your school is participating in International SEL Day, the NJDOE would love to highlight your school's activities. If you would like to invite the NJDOE, please contact us at safesupportiveschools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group