



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 3, 2021

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Principals, Administrators, School Counselors, Anti-Bullying Coordinators & Specialists, Student Assistance Coordinators, School Safety Specialists

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Join the NJDOE in Celebrating International SEL Day on March 26, 2021

The last Friday in March has been designated internationally as the second annual [SEL Day](#) by SEL4US and the Urban Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity for New Jersey educators to spread the word about the importance and impact of [social and emotional learning \(SEL\)](#).

During this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes to our home and school environments, rendering SEL all the more important for students. In these times of physical distancing, economic uncertainty, and racial and social injustice, it becomes increasingly vital to remain connected to one another socially and emotionally. SEL supports individuals and communities coping with challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, to foster conditions that promote mental health and wellness, develop resiliency skills, seek help when needed, and exhibit care for fellow citizens. As we continue our journey through these unprecedented times and look to paving the road forward, it remains of utmost importance that schools prioritize the implementation of SEL.

Whether you are new to this work or a seasoned SEL veteran, we hope you will join us in celebrating SEL Day. [Sign up to participate](#) in this year's SEL Day to showcase, promote, advocate for, and support SEL in your school and community. You can also participate by creating an artifact and posting it on social media with the hashtag #SELDAY on March 26, 2021. Let's help to get this event trending worldwide!

Additionally, we invite you to explore the following SEL resources and additional examples of ways to participate in SEL Day:

- [SEL Day Activity and Participation Toolkits](#)
- [CASEL's SEL Resources for Teachers](#)
- [Edutopia – SEL Resources for Educators](#)
- [Common Sense Media – SEL Educator Toolkit](#)
- [ASCD – Social and Emotional Learning Resources](#)
- [NJDOE Social and Emotional Learning](#)

Be sure to check in with New Jersey Department of Education via social media (@NewJerseyDOE) throughout the month of March and especially on SEL Day, as we learn about best practices and strategies from educators across the State. Should you have any questions or want to share about the successes in your classroom, school, or district, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at safesupportiveschools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools